

10/11/1989

Czechs and party monopoly

PRAGUE (AP) — Parliament Wednesday approved constitutional changes to end the Communist Party's 46-year monopoly on power, and a top party official said free elections could be held within a year. The 399 deputies present voted unanimously to scrap Article 4 of the Czechoslovak constitution, which mandated that all education be based on Marxism-Leninism. The changes were among concessions to opposition demands agreed to at a meeting Tuesday between President Ladislav Adamcuk and opposition leaders. Adamcuk also promised to propose by Sunday a new government, including non-Communist Anton Hnizdovsky, dean of the Communist Party school in Bratislava, said: "We have understood the leading role of the party and its position. We must resign this trust." Earlier, Parliament President Alois Indra formally tendered his resignation in an address to the chamber. He said his resignation was "a logical step in the context of the present developments." Indra said health reasons also played a role. Indra, reported to have been among top officials who called for the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, had announced his resignation Tuesday.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة سياسية أردنية عن المؤسسة الأردنية للدراسات

Arab ministers meet in Tunis

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab League foreign ministers were to meet in Tunis Wednesday in spite of messages from Washington urging Arab states not to pass resolutions which could undermine Secretary of State James Baker's attempts to arrange an Israel-Palestinian meeting in Cairo. "The United States asked the Arabs not to take a position that might jeopardize the Baker plan and to put pressure on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to accept the plan as it stands," an Arab ambassador said. The Arab diplomats said the PLO seems to have won the first round in the behind-the-scenes battle. Officials in Cairo said Egyptian Foreign Minister Khamis Abdul Maguid was unable to attend the Tunis meeting because of previous engagements, but Egypt's ambassador in Tunis would head his country's delegation. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi is leading Jordan's delegation to the meeting.

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LF rallies behind Aoun

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's strongest rightist militia joined defiant General Michel Aoun Wednesday to face Syrian forces mustering for a threatened strike into the Christian enclave. Many Beirut residents fled the capital or strengthened underground shelters in fear that a major battle between Aoun and new President Elias Hrawi would shatter a two-month truce. Thousands of Christians, plus 30 French members of parliament, flocked to Aoun's stronghold, the shell-rummed presidential palace in the Beirut suburb of Baabda, which Hrawi has vowed to take.

They blocked roads in the area in a human shield, posing the danger of mass civilian casualties if Hrawi, a Christian moderate backed by Syria, carries out his threats to remove Aoun by force. Samir Geagea, leader of the main Christian-led rightist militia, the Lebanese Forces, told a news conference: "I gave orders yesterday to the Lebanese Forces to defend along with the army the Christian areas."

"The Lebanese forces are committed to defend every village, soldier and civilian..." Diplomatic sources said more than 7,000 Syrian soldiers had entered Lebanon in the past few days, raising their strength to about 40,000. Aoun rejects a peace plan under which Lebanon's presidency has been reestablished after a gap of more than a year. He commands about 15,000 regular soldiers. The Lebanese Forces militia has about 10,000 men under arms and the Falangists, who also joined Aoun's line-up, 2,000.

Hrawi and the Syrians could call on support from army units in the eastern sector, numbering about 15,000 men, and from Druze and Muslim militiamen. The presidential palace is about five kilometres from frontline positions at Souk Al Gharb.



A Lebanese family flees with their belongings from Beirut to South Lebanon amid fears that Lebanese President Elias Hrawi might use force to oust army chief Michel Aoun from the presidential palace in Baabda.

Farouq Al Sharaa Tuesday two hours after arriving from Lebanon where he met Hrawi. The Syrian news agency SANA reported later that Scheer gave Sharaa a message on Lebanon from President Francois Mitterrand for Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

A poster at the entrance of the Baabda palace depicted the United States crucifying Lebanon and urged France: "Don't wash your hands. (Pontius) Pilate never been clean."

Schools closed in west Beirut, panic buying emptied shop shelves and thousands fled the battered city.

Thousands of Aoun's supporters, mostly young people, held a third all-night vigil at his presidential palace to show their support for the general. In a carnival-like atmosphere, the crowds sang and danced with soldiers around bonfires. Many camped around huge portraits of Aoun which were erected at the roadside.

carry on peacefully the process of national reconciliation."

Israeli 'warning'

Israel's air force chief warned Syria Wednesday it would risk confrontation with Israel if Syrian warplanes entered Lebanese airspace.

"There is no doubt that entering Lebanon could bring unwanted confrontations between our planes which fly regularly over Lebanon and Syrian planes that enter by surprise," said Major-General Avihu Bin-Nun, commander of Israel's air force.

Speaking to an Israeli women's organisation Wednesday, Bin-Nun said Syria has avoided flying in Lebanese airspace for years but recently used its air force to intimidate Aoun.

King urges increased U.N. efforts for peace

UNITED NATIONS (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday urged the United Nations to increase its efforts and speed up work towards a just and durable solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict that would guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

"The Palestinian people, who have been suffering for a long time and offering heavy sacrifices, have all the right to security, stability, freedom and peace in their own independent state like all other peoples of the world," the King said in a message to the United Nations on the eve of the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

King Hussein called on the world organisation to provide international guarantees to ensure protection for the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and to ensure Israel's strict conformity to the Fourth Geneva Convention until a total Israeli withdrawal has been achieved from all occupied Arab territories and so that the Palestinian people can exercise their right to living in dignity and freedom in accordance with an internationally guaranteed just and durable settlement.

King Hussein noted that the Palestinian people's sufferings had increased lately at the hands of the Israeli authorities while no real progress had been made in peace efforts.

"Israel persists in its obstinacy and continues to reject negotiations with the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) for a just peace despite the PLO's overtures towards peace," King Hussein added.

"Over the past 22 years, Israel has maintained its military occupation of all Palestinian lands, pursuing aggressive policies and following repressive measures against the indigenous population, a practice that has become well known, to the world community," the King pointed out. He said Israel had been seeking to impose a de facto situation on the Arab Palestinian people, forcing them to accept occupation or forced emigration to join the thousands of their refugee brothers dispersed in different countries as a result of Israel's occupation, which started in 1948.

"As you are aware, the Palestinians have refused to succumb to subjugation and have continued their adherence to their land despite Israel's repression," King Hussein said.

He said that Israel was now being confronted with the Palestinian uprising that has been raging for two years to foil Israeli dreams and to clearly manifest Palestinian people's rejection of capitulation.

"The intifada in the occupied Arab lands has proved beyond any shred of doubt that the Palestinians are holding on to their homeland and are willing to die in the course of defending it," the King said.

Referring to Jordan's assistance to the Palestinians, the King noted that a decision was taken last year to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in order to corroborate the Palestinian people's struggle and to highlight the Palestinian people's national identity.

King Hussein referred in his message, which was addressed to the United Nations Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to the PLO's "brave and constructive move towards peace and its moderate policies," and also to "the favourable international diplomatic climate which should encourage all concerned powers to find solutions for regional conflicts."

The King stressed Jordan's strong belief that an international peace conference is the most appropriate forum for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, which can ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

King visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday called at the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the acting chief of staff and assistants. During the visit, the King discussed issues of concern to the Armed Forces. King Hussein was accompanied in the visit by Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran.

Moscow hits Kohl

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union Wednesday condemned a call by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for a federation of East and West Germany, accusing him of trying to stir up East German nationalism.

"We can see clearly an attempt to push the recently started process of renovation in the GDR (East Germany) in a nationalist direction, to prescribe the route and meaning of reform," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitsikh said.

He said Kohl had acted without considering the feelings of other European countries, especially East Germany, noting that East Berlin's leaders had said reunification was not on their political agenda.

"It is completely clear that such actions do not correspond in any way to the Helsinki principles... and have nothing in common with universally adopted norms of relations between sovereign states," Gremitsikh told a regular news conference.

Kohl, in a speech to parliament Tuesday, outlined a 10-point German unity programme and offered economic support to East Berlin in Bonn's boldest response yet to radical changes sweeping through East Germany.

But Gremitsikh said Kohl was swimming against the tide of opinion from other European states — including the Soviet Union — which did not want to change the post-World War II borders.

"We would like to hope that Bonn will not lose its sense of realism," he said.

"One should not forget that there are dozens of other states in Europe which are intensely interested in preserving stability but not in the destruction of territorial political structures, with all resulting dangerous consequences for the peaceful future of European peoples," Gremitsikh said.

East German leader Egon Krenz said he was ready to discuss closer cooperation with West Germany but reunification was not on the agenda.

"German unity is not on the agenda. We are ready to cooperate with the Federal Republic (West Germany) but we are not ready to let ourselves be given conditions or preconditions," he told West German television (ARD).

Gorbachev visits Italy ahead of Malta summit

ROME (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev began a three-day visit to Italy Wednesday during which he will gauge European views on momentous changes in the Communist world before the superpower summit in Malta.

The Ilushin-62 airliner carrying Gorbachev, who will make history on Friday by becoming the first Kremlin chief to meet a Pope, arrived 10 minutes early from Moscow to crisp sunny weather in the Italian capital, blanketed by an unprecedented security operation.

Both Italian and Soviet officials say the visit will be the opportunity for Gorbachev to take stock with a leading European government on turmoil in East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia that is changing the post-war face of Europe at breathtaking pace.

The Italian tour has taken on major new importance because it is sandwiched between an informal European Community (EC) summit called 10 days ago to discuss Eastern Europe and the Malta seaborne meeting with U.S.

President George Bush. Soviet officials say the situation in Europe has changed radically since Gorbachev visited West Germany in May or even since his visit to Finland a month ago.

After a brief arrival ceremony at the airport, where Gorbachev told Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti he was "in good spirits," he drove with his wife Raisa in an armoured-plated Zil limousine to the residence of the Soviet ambassador, set in extensive parkland overlooking the Vatican.

Giuseppe Garibaldi, hero of Italian reunification in the last century, once threatened to shell the Vatican from nearby.

After a brief stop in the ambassador's villa, Gorbachev, accompanied by Raisa and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, drove to the Quirinal Palace of President Francesco Cossiga for an official welcome from helmeted horseguards and a first round of talks over lunch.

He was later due to hold discussions with Andreotti as well as making a rapid tour of Rome tourist spots with Raisa.

Bush promises no surprises in Malta

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush, out to reassure allies fearing a repeat of Ronald Reagan's near-gateway of the Western nuclear arsenal at the 1986 Reykjavik summit, has vowed to avoid surprises at his Malta meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I'm not going to go off and prematurely jump out there and try to grandstand by committing them (the NATO allies) to something. That's not how you keep an alliance strong, nor is it the way you effect permanent changes," Bush said Tuesday at an impromptu news conference in the Oval Office.

"The surprise will be, if you're looking for a surprise, there won't be a surprise," he added as he hailed against "euphoric expectations of some deal."

Mindful of bitter allied complaints about Reykjavik where Reagan nearly agreed to eliminate nuclear arms without consulting other Western leaders, Bush noted that he has spoken to every

NATO leader about the two-day summit that begins Saturday.

He also sought to dampen speculation, fuelled in part by administration officials and by the president himself in an upbeat Thanksgiving eve address, that the Malta talks will produce a breakthrough on arms control.

Bush said Tuesday he and Gorbachev might discuss in a general way "how a defence system will look 10 years from now" but denied he would make specific proposals.

"I am not going to enter into an arms control agreement," he added.

Bush left open the possibility that the two leaders, while stopping short of any formal agreements, could reach general understandings.

U.S. says dialogue with PLO threatened

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickens says the overall dialogue between the United States and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will be jeopardised if the General Assembly recognises the PLO as a state.

Debate on the Palestinian problem opened Wednesday morning in the General Assembly, where Arab states planned to introduce a resolution Thursday that would raise the PLO's status from an observer organisation to a non-voting state, like North and South Korea, Monaco, the Vatican, San Marino and Switzerland.

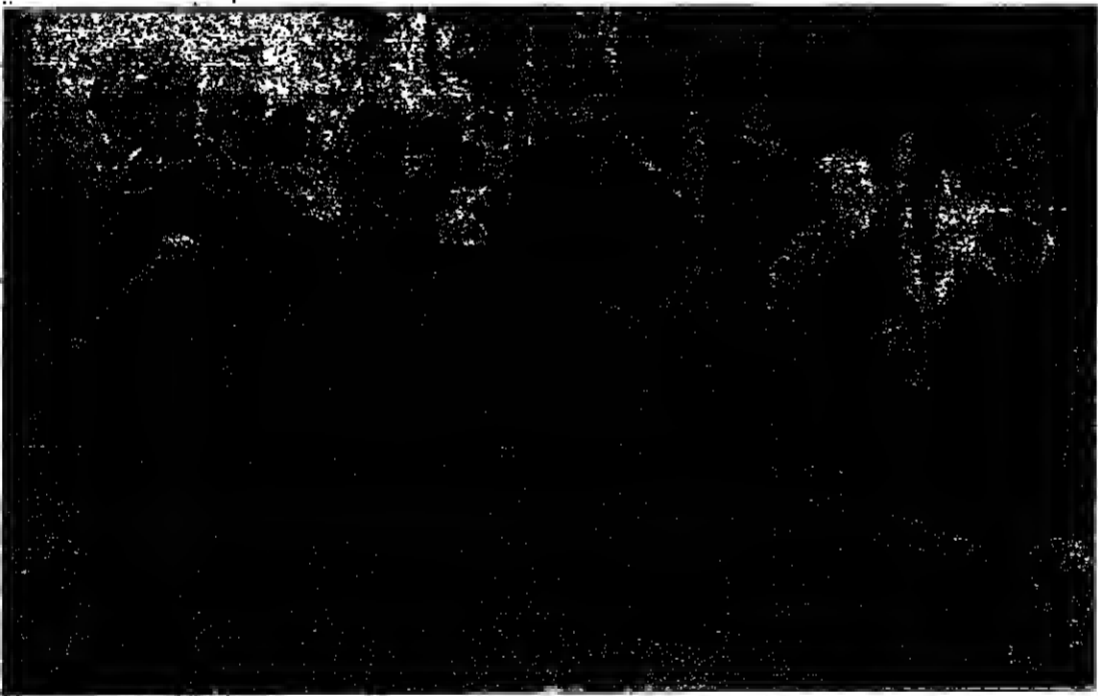
The State Department has threatened to cut off all U.S. funds for the United Nations if the General Assembly approves the step. The United States is assessed \$216 million annually, one-fourth of the U.N. budget.

Pickens said Tuesday that the PLO move "has serious consequences for the peace process in the Middle East, our ongoing dialogue with the PLO, a lot of very important issues, issues that I would say should be much more important to the PLO than the mere change on a nameplate here in the United Nations."

In Rome Wednesday, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) voted overwhelmingly to cooperate with the PLO in offering technical assistance to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. The United States also threatened to cut funds to that organisation if the measure passed.

An Israeli delegate in Rome said his country supported giving technical assistance to the Arabs in the occupied territories "but why does it have to be in collaboration with the PLO, a very political organisation?"

A PLO representative said "We were trying to depict reality in the occupied territories... I do not wish to talk about politics."



A group of Palestinians calling themselves the Palestinian Popular Army parade through the central area of Nabulus and speak through loudspeakers on political matters

Palestinians strike to mark partition votes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip staged a general strike Wednesday to mark the anniversary of the 1947 U.N. vote supporting creation of a Jewish state in Palestine.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians said six residents — one an eight-year-old boy — were wounded in stone-throwing clashes with soldiers on alert for an expected surge of protests to mark the anniversary.

Leaflets ordering the strike were issued by the Islamic resistance movement, known as Hamas, and by the rival Islamic Jihad (holy war).

Some Palestinian sources said the simultaneous call reflected a reconciliation call between the groups. But others said there was no sign of coordination and the day was a natural occasion for a strike since both groups opposed the partition resolution. The Arab World rejected the U.N. plan to partition British-

ruled Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.

The strike paralysed the occupied territories. Shops closed, traffic came to a standstill and labourers boycotted jobs in Israel.

An Israeli radio correspondent reported from Ramallah in the West Bank that Islamic activists had scrawled slogans on walls saying "Let the day of partition be a day of escalation" and "The Arabs' only enemy is the Jew."

Israeli military authorities, assessing the nearly two-year-old Palestinian uprising, said Tuesday Muslim fundamentalists were gaining influence in the occupied areas despite the arrest of hundreds of activists.

In Rafah in the Gaza Strip, Palestinians said soldiers used noise bombs and tear-gas and fired shots to disperse protesters, wounding three of them. Two Gazans from Beit Hanoun village and one from Gaza City were also wounded.

Gaza City residents said troops sealed the house of Mahmud Masman, 26, accused of attacking Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel. They said 23 people lived in the house.

On Tuesday Palestinians, in an unprecedented show of force, sealed off part of Nabulus in the West Bank to hunt people believed to have betrayed activists to the Israeli army, residents said.

Borrowing an army tactic, the armed militants of Black Panther groups confined more than 20,000 residents for up to 90 minutes. They seized and severely beat two Arabs, suspected of aiding Israel, residents said.

In its 50th leaflet since the revolt began on Dec. 9, 1987, Hamas said Monday it had "prepared thousands to escalate the uprising by all means" and would not be deterred by the arrest of its leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin. The leaflet also said Hamas had kidnapped and killed two Israeli soldiers this year.

Ethiopia, rebels to hold peace talks next year

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopia and Eritrean rebels said Wednesday they would hold full scale negotiations early next year to end Africa's longest-running war.

In a communique ending eight days of talks in Nairobi the government and separatist rebels of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere and ex-U.S. President Jimmy Carter would chair the conference.

They also agreed on seven international observers — the Organisation of African Unity, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Tanzania, Sudan, Kenya and the United Nations — to oversee the negotiations.

The United Nations has declined the invitation because its rules state that it can only respond to such requests from its General Assembly or Security Council.

"The two sides also discussed possible goodwill actions including how to minimise suffering because of the drought (in northern Ethiopia)," Carter, who chaired the Nairobi talks, told a news conference.

He added that he hoped to use his influence to ensure unimpeded movement of international aid to the drought — and war-ravaged northern provinces of Eritrea, Tigray and Wollo, where

the United Nations says up to four million people may starve early next year because of crop failure.

Shortly after the joint communique was read Alamin Mohammed Saied, head of the EPLF negotiators, and Ethiopia's chief delegate Ashaghe Yigletu traded accusations over why the United Nations had declined to be an observer.

Without giving details, Alamin accused Ethiopia of trying to persuade the United Nations not to participate, a charge Ashaghe sharply rejected.

Carter sometimes looked helpless and was forced to intervene frequently during the news conference as the two sides spoke at length about their commitment to peace in Eritrea, which has been devastated by 28 years of war, Africa's longest-running conflict.

Carter, who brokered the 1979 Camp David accords which led to peace between Egypt and Israel, said the Nairobi talks had nearly broken down two or three times over the question of the role and appointment of observers.

"These negotiations have at times been very difficult, but the

persistence, wisdom and desire for accommodation demonstrated by both sides have finally prevailed," he said.

"The issues that divide the parties are deeply felt. In spite of the (harsh) language they are using, we are moving forward. The peace process has continued and will continue."

The EPLF wants independence for Eritrea, a former Italian colony federated with Ethiopia in 1952 under a U.N. mandate and strategically located along the Red Sea, Ethiopia's main outlet to the outside world.

Eritrea's legislature abolished the federal status 10 years later and voted to join Ethiopia which has since given the province limited autonomy.

Although the delegations agreed to hold a full scale peace conference early next year, they set no date. Carter said he and Nyerere would decide on this and the venue after consultations with the warring parties.

The Eritrean war has killed hundreds of thousands of people — Carter puts the death toll at one million — and sent another 800,000 fleeing into exile.

Combined with another rebellion raging in neighbouring Tigray the war effort is costing Ethiopia, one of Africa's poorest nations, more than half its annual budget.

Reformists push for change in Algerian ruling party

ALGIERS (R) — Guerrilla veterans had never seen anything like it: Within minutes of the opening of a National Liberation Front (FLN) congress, delegates stood up to noisily demand replacement of the entire Central Committee.

Young reformists are pushing for change in the party that has ruled Algeria for 27 years and is still run by veterans of its eight-year war of independence from France.

"Stagnation cannot last forever because of the situation in Algeria and also what is happening everywhere else around the world," President Chadli Benjedid told reporters Tuesday, apparently referring to dramatic change sweeping other former one-party states in Eastern Europe.

"This is the first really democratic congress since 1962," said Salmi Adnan, 27, one of the youngest of 5,000 delegates who are charting the FLN's future in a multi-party democracy launched by Benjedid last year.

Benjedid is counting on new blood like Adnan to rejuvenate the party and help it overcome a rising opposition challenge to win the first multi-party elections due on the local level next year.

The president launched sweeping political and economic reforms of his own after youth riots swept the country last year.

The Congress is the first in FLN history at which half the delegates are directly elected by the rank and file. Adnan, an engineer from the town of Blida 50 kilometres south of Algiers, is one of them.

"The current Central Committee is not representative. That's why the rank and file has demanded free elections," he told Reuters, referring to the stormy opening Tuesday.

For years FLN congresses were stage-managed shows at which party bosses engineered applause and raised delegates' hands on cue. Delegates said Tuesday's outburst appeared spontaneous, and would benefit Benjedid in his fight against hardliners who opposed his reforms.

Ageing ex-guerrilla commanders who led the country under former President Houari Boumedienne were sitting in the front rows but the young reformists at the back stole the limelight.

Mohammad Salah Yahiaoui, FLN coordinator in the 1970s, Boumedienne's long-serving Foreign Minister Abdel Aziz Bouteflika and industry czar Abdesslem Belaid were expected to speak Wednesday, delegates said.

"We respect all the old leaders but it's time to prepare for a new generation. The young are capable of bearing the responsibility," said 32-year-old Mansour Mohammad Ezzedine, also a delegate from Blida.

Adnan, son of an ex-independence fighter, and Ezzedine call themselves socialists but back Benjedid's bid to free the colossal public sector from bureaucratic constraints.

They appear less motivated by any specific ideology — other than the FLN principles of socialism, Islam and national independence — than by the need to be heard and play leadership roles.

Afghan rebels launch public relations battle

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan's anti-Communist guerrillas have mounted a new offensive, but this time they are pursuing good press not military successes, say rebel and Western sources.

Meanwhile, a Western diplomat who refused to be further identified said that rebel fighters can count on U.S. financial support for at least another two years.

The United States and Saudi Arabia have bankrolled the rebels for much of their 11-year war to oust ruling Marxists from Afghanistan, which brought them up against 103,000 Soviet combat troops who fought alongside Afghan government soldiers.

Moscow continues to arm the Afghan government.

The United States already has apportioned money for 1990 and it appears "funds are there for another year to 1991," said the diplomatic source. He declined to give a figure.

Last February, Soviet soldiers returned home after trying for nine years to crush the Afghan insurgency, and reaching a stalemate.

Since then, the rebels have lost most rounds in the fight for world opinion, say guerrilla and Western sources. Afghanistan's President Najibullah, who uses only one name, has emerged as a man of compromise.

He has offered to step down in the cause of peace, although he often has contradicted that offer, claiming to be the only popularly elected leader. And his calls for a ceasefire have been rejected by the insurgents who say Najibullah would use a hill in fighting to consolidate and regroup.

Rebels said they took the risk in an attempt to present a humanitarian image to an apathetic international community.

"The world thinks that now the Soviets are gone and it's only the issue of Afghans," said Rahim. "They don't have any interest in the war, they just think that somehow it should be sorted out. They don't care how."

Rahim said without the millions of dollars worth of military hardware Moscow sends monthly to Kabul, the government would cease to exist.

"The regime is fighting to protect Najibullah and a couple hundred guys and the Mujahideen are fighting because of these couple hundred guys," said one diplomat. The rebels call themselves Mujahideen, or Islamic holy warriors.

Despite overtures by Moscow for a mutual arms cutoff, a Western diplomat said there are no signs the Soviet Union is prepared for a negotiated settlement.

"There are all kinds of signs of flexibility from the resistance and their backers but no signs of flexibility from the regime," said one diplomat.

He said Moscow refuses to abandon Najibullah and his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, despite offers from the rebels to include some current Kabul lawmakers in a postwar government.

Rahim said Najibullah, the former chief of Afghanistan's feared secret police, "is a criminal" that not even the most moderate of rebel leaders is prepared to accept.

Soviets approve amnesty for veterans

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet

In contrast, the rebel leadership has developed an image of a group of bickering power brokers.

Two of the more powerful rebel groups have been sparring sporadically in northern Afghanistan. The seven-party rebel coalition is divided into Islamic moderates and fundamentalists. Internal fights have characterised the 9-month-old rebel government-in-exile.

"Instead of slogans, we must face reality. We can't ignore world opinion," said Abdul Rahim, a spokesman for the Pakistan-based rebel alliance. "We have to be more realistic, more planned, a friend, not an enemy."

A Western diplomat said the rebel's public image campaign is a reaction to pressure from Pakistan and United States.

"They have taken a special interest now," one diplomat said. "Before they had great press and didn't have to try for it, but now they do."

On Monday, rebel fighters returned two Soviet prisoners of war with their mothers in an emotional ceremony that saw Moscow's ambassador to Pakistan, Victor Yakunin, sitting alongside Syed Gailani, president of the self-proclaimed rebel government.

Yakunin promised the release of 33 prisoners in Kabul — Afghans and Pakistani and Arab soldiers who fought alongside the rebels. But a Western diplomat said Moscow has reneged on past promises to return rebel prisoners.

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Soviets approve amnesty for veterans

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet

parliament has approved an amnesty for all Soviet soldiers who committed crimes while serving in Afghanistan, "confirming that deserters could return home without fear of punishment."

The measure gave full legal force to the amnesty announced in July, 1988 by public prosecutor Alexander Sukharev.

It also appeared to be a sweeping, unconditional pardon for all crimes committed by soldiers during the Soviet Union's nine-year engagement.

"The Supreme Soviet (parliament) today granted an amnesty to former Soviet servicemen who committed crimes while in Afghanistan," said the TASS news agency report of the decision Tuesday.

"This decision confirms that all Soviet servicemen, taken prisoner or reported missing in Afghanistan, will be able to use all civil rights under the USSR constitution on their return home."

The parliament appealed to other countries to help Soviet servicemen who are still abroad to come home.

Moscow has said that over 300 soldiers were captured and have not returned home.

The Kremlin believes that at least 200 of these are still alive and held by rebels in Afghanistan or Pakistan, or freed and living in the United States, Canada or other West European countries.

Before the amnesty, deserters faced the possibility of long prison sentences if they returned home. The amnesty would also appear to apply to deserters caught previously and sentenced to prison.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Mother pleads for Naccache's life

PARIS (R) — The mother of a jailed pro-Iranian gunman made an impassioned plea Tuesday for the life of her son, said to be in a grave state because of a hunger strike. The lawyer for Lebanese Anis Naccache, serving life for double murder, released the open letter addressed to French President Francois Mitterrand and Iranian leader Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. "On the 81st day of the hunger strike undertaken by my son, and given the grave deterioration of his health, I appeal to President Rafsanjani to intervene quickly to save my son," wrote Hayat Naccache. "At the same time I send an appeal to the president of France and to his humanitarian sense," she said. Mrs. Naccache said such intervention would conform with the spirit of Islam and would be in line with "agreements undertaken by the French government of (former) Prime Minister Jacques) Chirac for the release of my son."

Dutch journalist freed in Lebanon

AMSTERDAM (R) — A Dutch journalist jailed in Lebanon since September on charges of espionage and possession of illegal drugs has been released, a Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Journalist Charles Van Der Leeuw, who works for Dutch and Belgian newspapers and broadcasting companies, was now out of the country and in the hands of Dutch diplomats, the spokesman added. He was arrested on Sept. 28 by Lebanese security officials who said they found hashish and a map of Lebanon with marked military bases during a search of his home in Beirut. Van Der Leeuw claimed he was arrested because army chief Michel Aoun disapproved of his dispatches and his contacts with Druze Muslim militia leader Walid Jumblatt.

Syria, Soviets discuss cooperation

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet Deputy Defence Minister Vitaly Shabanov discussed military cooperation with Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas in Damascus, Soviet officials said. They said Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zotov, who was quoted by the Washington Post last week as saying Syria should abandon its aim of strategic parity with Israel, attended the talks. Zotov said last Wednesday that Western news reports had not told the full story of what he wanted to say. He said ties between Damascus and Moscow, Syria's main arms supplier, were strong.

Nicosia mayors hope for unified city

NICOSIA (R) — The two mayors of divided Nicosia have said they were determined to press ahead in forging links between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. "Children shouldn't be growing up seeing each other as enemies," Turkish-Cypriot Mayor Mustafa Akinç said after talks with Greek-Cypriot Mayor Lellos Demetriades. Demetriades said he believed the environment was now more favourable for further exchanges between the two sides. The two mayors, who spoke to reporters in the U.N.-policed buffer zone dividing the city, jointly won an international award last month for their plans to develop Nicosia. Both sides will build roads, sewers and parks with eventual reunification of the city in mind.

Iran accepts U.N. offer of Gulf peace talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. secretary general has said he expected planned peace talks with Iran and Iraq in mid-December to be indirect negotiations rather than face-to-face discussions between the protagonists.

In response to questions, Javier Perez de Cuellar said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati had accepted the invitation to come to New York but he had not received a reply yet from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

He said that if both ministers did participate, he expected to meet them separately for discussions on how to proceed towards implementing a comprehensive peace plan.

The secretary general was speaking to reporters after briefing the Security Council on the recent shuttle mission to both countries by his personal representative, Ambassador Jan Eliasson.

After the meeting, the Security Council released a statement saying its members were convinced that with their support the U.N. peace plan would be implemented speedily.

Asked if both sides had been cooperative during the Eliasson mission, the secretary general said: "They were very cooperative with my personal representative (but) not necessarily cooperative with each other."

Diplomats said Iraq, which is expected to attend the December sessions, was not very enthusiastic about the negotiations because it wanted face to face talks with Iran.

The two sides are still believed to be far apart in breaking the stalemate towards reaching a permanent peace settlement since they stopped eight years of warfare in August 1988.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr 746426
Dr. Hanna Masour 740733
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawra 732056
Dr. Ahmad Othman 783384
Fina pharmacy 691912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nidroukh pharmacy 626372
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649455
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ma'n Barqawi ()
Al Sharrar pharmacy (983238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'ad ()
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 771211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 699800

Price Complaints

Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls 810230
Central Amman Telephone 669131
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/33
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Al-Bashir Maternity, J. Amn. 644412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 661171/14
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Al-Mustashir Hospital 642845
Al-Mustashir Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666277/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777103/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marjeh 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622400/5
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
07:20 New Delhi (RJ)
07:30 Cairo (RJ)
07:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
08:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
08:15 London (RJ)
08:30 Marjeh (RJ)
08:45 Baghdad (RJ)
09:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
09:15 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:15 Rome (RJ)
07:20 London (RJ)
07:30 Paris (RJ)
07:45 Larnaca (RJ)
08:00 Cairo (RJ)
08:15 Kuwait (RJ)
08:30 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
09:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
09:15 Bangkok (RJ)
09:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:15 Frankfurt (LH)
09:30 Riyadh (SV)

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fil per kg.
Apple 420 / 380
Banana 450 / 400
Banana (Makassar) 400 / 350
Beans 320 / 250
Cabbage 170 / 120
Carrot 280 / 240
Cauliflower 150 / 100

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:15 Rome (RJ)
07:20 London (RJ)
07:30 Paris (RJ)
07:45 Larnaca (RJ)
08:00 Cairo (RJ)
08:15 Kuwait (RJ)
08:30 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
09:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
09:15 Bangkok (RJ)
09:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
18:00 Koran
18:15 Children programme
18:30 Religious programme
18:45 Friday's prayer
19:00 Sports programme
19:15 Religious seminar
19:30 Feature film
19:45 Message from Queen
20:00 Local programme
20:15 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
20:45 Local programme
21:00 Arabic series
21:15 News summary in Arabic
21:30 Programme contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 French film
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Arabic
19:45 Mr. Belvedere
20:00 Simon and Simon
20:15 News in English
20:30 Three's Company
20:45 Fair
20:55 (Sunrise) Duna
21:05 Duna
21:15 Mr. Ash
21:30 Mr. Ash
21:45 Mr. Ash
21:55 Mr. Ash

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fair
06:15 (Sunrise) Duna
11:25 Duna
14:13 Mr. Ash
16:36 Mr. Ash
17:58 Mr. Ash

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
18:30 Koran
18:45 Programme review
19:00 Children programme
19:15 Book of Adventure
19:30 News for the Deaf
19:45 Religious programme
20:00 Health programme
20:15 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
20:45 Local series
21:00 Programme review
21:15 Local programme
21:30 Arabic film
21:45 News in Arabic
22:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde est a vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Vardies
20:00 News in Arabic
20:15 Guinness Record
20:30 News in Arabic
20:45 News in Arabic
21:00 News in Arabic
21:15 News in Arabic
21:30 News in Arabic
21:45 News in Arabic
21:55 News in Arabic

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fair
06:12 (Sunrise) Duna
11:24 Duna
14:13 Mr. Ash
16:36 Mr. Ash
17:58 Mr. Ash

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661257

Terrassano Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
625453.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772561.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Assuan International Church Tel.
827981, 683326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

The country will remain under the
effect of the cold front. Thus it will be
partly cloudy to cloudy with expected
rain showers the Kingdom and another
drop in temperatures will occur. Winds
will be southwesterly moderate to
fresh. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy
and rainy at times with southerly fresh
and wind and calm sea.

Min./max. temp. 9 / 16

Amman 14 / 21

Deserts 7 / 17

Jordan Valley 10 / 18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 22, Agaba 27. Humidity

Islamists take early initiative in Parliament

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Lower House of Parliament members affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood movement have not wasted time proving that they are active members who have ideas and initiatives of their own and will not wait idly until things are proposed by others.

One day after their candidature for the speakership of the Lower House lost the race in face of a coalition of independent members, the 22 Muslim Brotherhood deputies adopted measures to be heard and recognised for their "blessed deeds," according to one of the Islamist representatives.

According to the representative, who is not authorised to speak on behalf of the Islamist group as part of an agreement among its members that the role of press spokesman be delegated to Parliarabiyat, the 22 members have already informed Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar of their wish to donate one month's salary (JD 500 each) to "support the infatiga in the Israeli-occupied territories."

The petition left the option open to the speaker to decide whether the money will be taken in one lump sum or on monthly instalments.

According to the deputy, the group also submitted a two-page handwritten letter to

Arar urging him "to find immediate solutions to the economic and financial situation in the country."

Although the exact text of the letter was not immediately available to the press, the representative said that the letter also called for "finding solutions for the unemployment problem." In their election campaigns, the Muslim Brotherhood candidates prepared a long list of demands pertaining to the national debt and the financial situation in the Kingdom. Paramount among their demands then was an investigation of corruption and channels of public spending to determine the cause of the mismanagement of funds and that those behind it be

prosecuted.

Sources close to the Brotherhood movement maintained that these demands were reiterated in the letter submitted to Arar Tuesday. The Islamist representatives have maintained that billions of dollars were smuggled outside the country which "was one of the main reasons behind the devaluation of the dinar," an Islamist representative said.

In their economic programme, the Islamists called for developing the public sector based on new foundations of honest transactions and encouraging trust between the private sector and government "to allow the government to

benefit from the citizen's efforts and capabilities and allow the citizen to benefit from the government's support and services."

The Islamists called for stabilising imports, exports and production "within a studied and balanced national plan."

They place particular attention on solving the growing problem of unemployment in the Kingdom because of what they describe as "the social effects of poverty, the least of which is stealing, decrease of the number of marriages and retardation of the development of the society through lack of education," an Islamist representative said.

Crown Prince Award — opening for youth

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday described programmes of the Crown Prince Award as golden opportunities for Jordanian youth to help serve their country, realise their talents and potentials.

"The award's programmes aim at utilising the vast potential of Jordanian youth and at creating a new generation of fully mature, responsible youth who are aware of their country's needs in various fields," the Prince said at a meeting with participants of a five-day seminar on means of implementing the Crown Prince Award programme.

The award's programme offers youth an opportunity to use their free time to do work needed by society and protect the environment among other numerous activities, Prince Hassan said.

"The programme constitutes a practical application of the youth's aspirations totally void of the spirit of rivalry in an atmosphere of fruitful sharing and team work," he said.

Prince Hassan expressed his satisfaction with the increase in the number of male and female youths participating in the activities of the award's programmes.

He also voiced his appreciation of the various committees in charge of the implementation of the programme and the seminar, which ended Wednesday was designed to promote the work of the four-year-old project.

The seminar held its closing session earlier under the chairmanship of Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat during which detailed discussions of various committee reports were held.

The reports covered programmes designed to promote the potentials and skills of young Jordanians and to help them develop their talents and their capabilities through voluntary and cultural services.

The group of experts and officials in charge of the programme, who attended the meeting, issued a set of recommendations to be submitted to the award's board of directors for endorsement. The

participants also made a plan handbook for the implementation of the programme covering various youth activities, which will also be submitted to the board for approval.

Five workshops were held over the past five days, in which the participants discussed skills services, sports and other youth activities with the help of two British experts in these fields.

The Crown Prince Award was established along the lines of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in the United Kingdom in 1956 in a bid to promote the activities of Jordanian youth in the service of their community.

The programme was first initiated in 1984 and applied in the Amman and Balqa regions. It involved 240 youths.

At present youths from Madaba, Irbid, Zarqa, Karak, Wadi Mousa as well as Amman and Balqa governorates are registered as participants in the programmes, which involve recreational, sports, voluntary and community service activities.

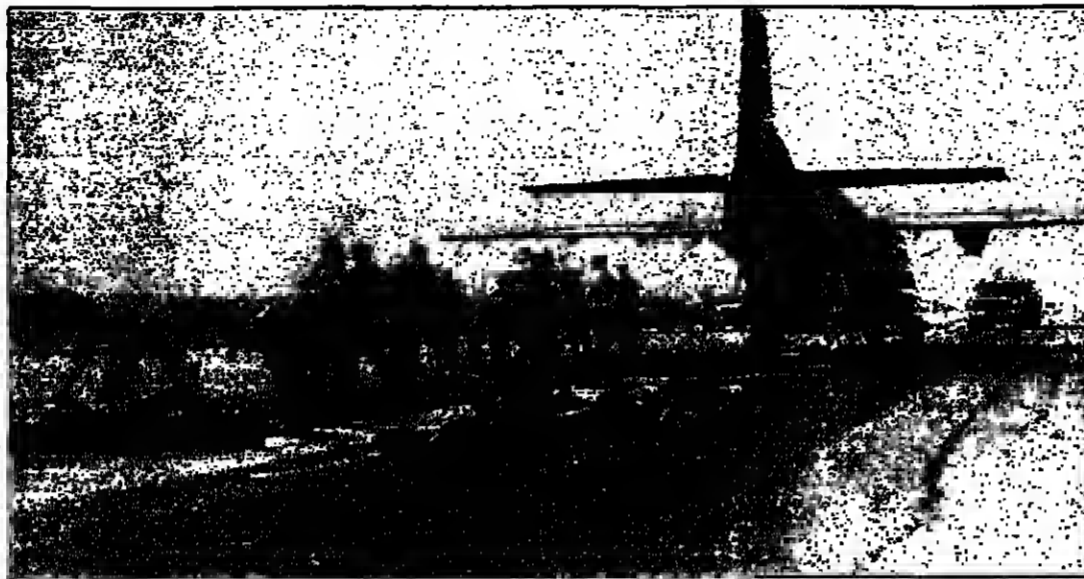
Mock emergency exercise at Marka

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Wednesday organised an annual mock fire and rescue operation exercise in Amman. Airport involving various concerned authorities, firemen and civil aviation staff.

The operation began with a distress call from the pilot following the landing of the aircraft informing the control tower of an explosion aboard the plane. He also gave details about the number of passengers and crew, according to Mohammad Rashid Abu Saad, director of Amman airport. He said the call was

followed by emergency activities, which included dispatching ambulances, fire engines and mobilising rescue staff in a matter of three minutes. The fire was put out, injured people were evacuated in ambulances and other related operations were conducted with speed and efficiency, he said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Abu Saad expressed satisfaction with the manner the mock situation was handled and voiced appreciation of all those involved in the operation, which he described as an annual practice to provide training.



A scene from Wednesday's mock fire and rescue operation at Marka airport (Petra photo).

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SHARIF ZEID VISITS PSD: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) headquarters in Amman and was briefed on its development and modernisation programmes. Sharif Zeid met with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeh and PSD Director-General Major-General Fadel Ali Fuhaid with whom he reviewed the department's work in general and efforts to maintain the momentum of development within the security departments and services. The prime minister voiced his satisfaction with the progress of work and commended the PSD for its role in safeguarding the country's security and in protecting the safety and rights of Jordanian citizens (Petra).

JOINT PANEL APPROVED: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the establishment of the Joint Jordanian-South Yemeni Higher Committee. The Saudi Al Shaab Arabic daily said the committee would be responsible for promoting and bolstering cooperation and following up the implementation of protocols signed between the two countries (J.T.).

PLASTIC ARTS: Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Wednesday opened at the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association an art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ghassan Al Hussein, Adib Atwan and Abdullah Nawabdhah. The exhibition runs through Dec. 5 (Petra).

FRENCH JOURNALISTS VISIT DESERT: A French team of journalists arrived Wednesday at Aqaba on an exploratory visit to the Jordanian desert to pave the way for a visit by a specialised team in desert tourism. The team will tour desert areas in south and east Jordan (Petra).

EMERGENCY MEASURES: Al Koura District Governor 'Aref Abu Karaki decided Wednesday to form emergency teams and operation rooms in the district as a protective measure in the rainy season. Abu Karaki, also chairman of the public safety committee in the district, decided to ban street vendors who do not abide by public health law and banned merchants from displaying their goods on pavements (Petra).

MUTA STUDENTS GRADUATE: A batch of students graduated Wednesday from Muta University after completing four-year courses in electrical and mechanical engineering. The graduates, all from the university's military wing, had acquired military training as part of their course of study. The graduates, who will be absorbed by the Public Security Department (PSD) or the Armed Forces, received their diplomas and awards from the army chief of staff's assistant for manpower at the end of the graduation ceremony (Petra).

Tunis meeting urges support for disabled

TUNIS (Petra) — Delegates from Jordan and Arab League countries wound up a meeting in Tunis Wednesday by issuing a call on Arab governments to give more attention to and care for the disabled in the Arab World in general and handicapped Palestinians in particular.

The meeting, organised by the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), called on Arab and foreign organisations to offer support for Palestinians and to protect their human rights.

A statement at the final session condemned Israel's inhuman practices in the occupied territories and its violations of international laws and conventions on human rights. The statement urged Arab governments to help establish a pan-Arab organisation that would provide care for the disabled.

The delegates called for separating the judiciary from other authorities and to safeguard its independence in a bid to guarantee public freedom and ensure fair trials.

The two-day meeting was attended by delegations from 10 Arab states, in addition to representatives of the Arab Jurists Federation and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Subsequently the three boys were detained. They admitted that they had stolen jewels, cash and various other items from homes and stores using duplicate keys, the PSD statement said.

The statement, which did not disclose the names of the suspects, called on shopkeepers and public to be more alert and to cooperate with police.

Meanwhile, PSD chief Fadel Ali Fuhaid said in a statement also carried by Petra, that a PSD complaints office established in 1985 was functioning well and receiving complaints from the public.

The office helps safeguard the interests of Jordanian citizens and property. Fuhaid said the PSD receives constructive ideas from the public through the office.

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Suspects detained in Madaba robberies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday announced the capture of three boys from Madaba district who are suspected of committing a series of thefts and selling stolen merchandise including jewellery, to local merchants.

A PSD statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Madaba police had received several complaints from local residents and shopkeepers about theft and immediately launched investigations.

Subsequently the three boys were detained. They admitted that they had stolen jewels, cash and various other items from homes and stores using duplicate keys, the PSD statement said.

The statement, which did not disclose the names of the suspects, called on shopkeepers and public to be more alert and to cooperate with police.

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The office helps safeguard the interests of Jordanian citizens and property. Fuhaid said the PSD receives constructive ideas from the public through the office.

Jordan to observe family planning day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan observes the International Family Planning and Protection Day, Dec. 2 by holding a series of functions through specialised social development organisations in the country.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra Wednesday said the events would be spearheaded by the Jordan Family Planning and Protection Society in conjunction with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

This year's events, the statement said, will be staged under the slogan "Awareness of the mother brings safety to the child and happiness to the family." The various activities will aim to spread awareness among the public in general and mothers in particular on methods of family planning and helping the mother in birth spacing on a sound basis and through healthy and sound directives and guidance.

The statement said the programme, which will include lectures by specialists on child development, family planning and breast feeding, would be carried out in social and voluntary centres and QAF branches in Madaba, Mafrq, Karak, Tafleeh, Maan and Beer Al Dibaght as well as Amman.

It said the society and the QAF could join efforts to help families minimise risk of handicapped children, especially at the early stage of their development.

He said that the committees would hold meetings in Sanaa, Baghdad, Cairo and Amman next month and prepare the ground for the meeting.

Housing contracts

In another statement carried by Petra, Hiyasat said the door was now open for Jordanian engineers and engineering offices from the private and public sectors to win a biennial award from the Arab Ministers of Housing and Reconstruction Council.

The award is normally given for the implementation of a housing project of no less than 50 housing units not in one complex or building that reflects the Arab and Islamic architectural heritage and style, according to Hiyasat.

He said the award is designed to encourage architects to design Arab and Islamic style housing complexes and to be more creative with their designs that would enrich Arab and Islamic architectural heritage.

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Yarmouk to have special science centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University in Irbid will soon have a centre for science and pure and applied physics operated in conjunction with and support from the International Physics Centre in the Italian City of Trieste.

Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assan, in remarks reported by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the establishment of the centre was an international recognition of the significance of science and physics in promoting development.

The Trieste centre has decided to set up the centre in Yarmouk and to allocate \$25,000 annually to support its work for the coming five years to serve as a regional centre serving the Arab region in Asia, the minister said.

He said Yarmouk was selected in view of the long-standing relationship and cooperation between the university and the Trieste centre.

The projected centre is bound to attract noted scientists and will no doubt boost scientific research in the Arab region, he added.

With the establishment of this centre, Yarmouk University will house three specialised centres. It already has a technical college provide training in electronics, communications, computers and energy distribution, and a specialised institute of archaeology and anthropology which conducts archaeological excavations and handles matters related to antiquities.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * Book exhibition at the University of Yarmouk.
- * A Gem Tree exhibition, by "Latifah Abu Hamed" at the Exhibition Hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Ghassan Al Hussein, Adib Atwan and Abdullah Nawabdhah at the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association, Shoukani — 5:00 p.m.
- * An art exhibition of water colours by Jordanian artist Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.

FILMS

- * An Italian film entitled "L'ultimo Imperatore" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- * A feature film entitled "Bird" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

BAZAAR

- * A Christmas charity bazaar organised by the German speaking ladies in Amman at Aurora Hotel (Friday 11:00 - 5:00 p.m.).

SYMPOSIUM

- * A symposium on Arab-Islamic art and its influence on contemporary Arab art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

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Jordan Times

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Missing the point

ALL the ongoing negotiations between the various parties on how to start the Palestinian-Israeli talks could have been shortened if they were kept in proper perspective and linked to the ultimate objective of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East. The difficulties encountered thus far in agreeing on a formula acceptable to the PLO and Israel stem first and foremost from the false proposition that the projected Israeli-Palestinian talks are both the means and ends of the entire exercise. By blowing the initial step of preliminary talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis out of proportion, every step of the way leading to them have become fraught with danger and assumed far reaching implications. Once such envisaged talks are brought down to size, many of the hurdles already encountered or expected would lose their significance and political implications.

As it is now, all parties involved in the process of seeking common ground to start the much-talked about talks are losing sight of the basic purport of the intended talks which is to serve as a conduit inevitably leading to the convening of an international peace conference on the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts. As a matter of fact that is the essence of the 10-point plan that have been circulated among the interested parties over the past few months.

And as has been conceded by practically all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts that the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza and the PLO are two sides of the same coin, all the fuss that is being currently made as to who may represent the Palestinians becomes a moot issue that need not and should not delay any further the start of the preliminary PLO-Israeli talks. Above all, it must be borne in mind at all times that as long as all such talks will lead to the projected international conference under the auspices of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and are conducted in accordance with the internationally recognised norms and resolutions, there is no further excuse to fear the imperfections of any initial step along the long and tortuous road to peace in the Middle East.

In this vein, all parties involved in the quest for a permanent and just peace between the two sides need to have a broader vision of the entire process of peace and above all be motivated at all times by the long-range goals and objectives rather than by a limited vision and short-term aspirations. Most of all, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his clique must comprehend that playing for time with semantical exercises which in the final analysis would make no real substantive differences one way or another is self-defeating as well as self-defeating. The sooner the parties get on with the real task of exchanging views, the sooner they will get to basics within the format of the international conference.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday discussed the opening of Parliament by His Majesty King Hussein on Monday and its far-reaching influence on Jordan's future. The paper said that the opening constituted the first practical step in Jordan's endeavours to overcome its difficulties and hardships and reflected the Jordanian people's determination to pursue the goal of development. The paper said that despite its meagre resources, its economic ills and the numerous external challenges, Jordan was able to stand up and opt for democratic and parliamentary rule in order to deal with the uncomfortable situation it has witnessed in the past stage, and to pave the way for serious action that would bring about a brighter future. The paper said that the King's speech from the throne embodied all the people's aspirations and presented an outline of the Kingdom's achievements over the past years, thus giving real hope to the people and infusing in the Jordanian citizens more optimism about the future of their country. The paper commented the Jordanian people's tenacity and perseverance in the face of pressures by the enemies of the Arab World, by the economic difficulties and by the many odds facing the nation. It expressed hope that the coming era will witness a brighter and more prosperous life for the Jordanian people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily launches a strong attack on Washington's attitude towards Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and its threats to withdraw from the United Nations and stop its contributions for the United Nations various organisations. Tareq Masarweh describes the U.S. administration's threats as a sort of disrespect and disregard to the world community. The writer expresses the view that the United Nations will be better off without the United States. He says that following its withdrawal from UNESCO, the organisation has been functioning in a better and more constructive manner. Gone are the days when Washington used to threaten the nations of the world by withholding contributions or assistance, gone is the time when the world was afraid of such development, says Masarweh. He notes that Washington is now threatening the world body because of the prospect that the U.N. General Assembly could upgrade the PLO's status at the United Nations, but he says the U.S. administration seems to forget that it has not paid its own share to the world organisation totalling \$500 million, while the organisation is still functioning normally. The army of employees at the U.N. headquarters could be afraid of the American threats, but not the countries of the world, says the writer. Indeed it is high time for the developing nations to take the world organisation out of New York and hold meetings in Geneva where the freedoms of all countries and leaders including the PLO leader are safeguarded.

Al Dustour Arabic daily said that the King's speech from the throne last Monday told the world that Jordan was capable of confronting and overcoming all challenges facing the nation. The paper also highlighted the country's accomplishments over the past years under the King's reign and through his wisdom and guidance. It said the King was able to steer the Kingdom away from danger, and together with his people, he was able to foil all the enemies' ambitious and evil plans.

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher

ELECTIONS in the occupied territories could prove far more ominous for Israel than face-to-face negotiations with the PLO, says Science and Development Minister Ezer Weizman in a Jerusalem Post interview.

"And it's like going to Nablus via Hongkong," asserts Weizman, warning that those elected will represent the PLO anyway—but a PLO that is far more radical than Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah group.

Weizman has been singing that theme since last May when the government approved the Shamir-Rabin election initiative. In the crucial cabinet debate prior to the plan's approval, Weizman warned that a high percentage of voters, particularly Gazans, would swing to Hamas should elections be held in the territories today.

Israel could thus cast itself into a diplomatic abyss, forced to deal with unknown elements and underground leaders far more extremist than the PLO leadership in Tunis.

"Instead of my speaking directly with Arafat, who is branded a terrorist, but whom I know is backed by Mubarak, with whom I can speak, and Europe, and the United States... Instead, I am going to hold an election in which the PLO will be weakened by factions like Jibril, Hawatmeh, Hamas and Habash," Weizman argued in May 1989.

Moreover, the election "plan" as set down by the Shamir government is no blueprint at all.

It ignores, in many respects, the only signed blueprint that ever existed for negotiations with the Palestinians—the Camp

'Going to Nablus via Hongkong'

David accords. The Shamir plan thus leaves a dangerous vacuum in failing to provide for what would happen the day after elections, should they ever get off the ground.

"Let's assume a body of Palestinian representatives are elected. It's 100 per cent certain that they won't be Zionists. What are we going to talk about with them?" he asks.

"If we had followed the Camp David path we should have followed a decade ago, we would have already had elections, knowing where we were headed and what the responsibilities were on both sides. We would have already passed the five-year interim period of autonomy set down in the Camp David accords, and we would be sitting and negotiating over the final 'status' of the West Bank and Gaza."

"Instead we have been engaged in one long political filibuster."

Jabbing his finger at the text of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, described in Camp David as the "basis" for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, he says: "Look at this. What does it speak about? 'Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict'."

Likewise, the Camp David accords state that "in order to provide full autonomy to the in-

habitants, under these arrangements the Israeli military government and its civilian administration will be withdrawn as soon as a self-governing authority has been freely elected."

"So," Weizman continues, "under the Shamir plan, if we hold elections, are we going to withdraw? Is anybody talking about replacing the military government with the principle of 'self-government' and 'legitimate rights' for the Palestinian people as stated in Camp David?"

No, he answers. The elections under the Shamir plan, "and let's get this clear" are only designed to select a body of Palestinians to "negotiate" with Israel.

"But we don't know what they are going to talk about. And we don't know what the responsibilities of the elected body will be the day after elections."

Noting that November 19 was the 12th anniversary of Egyptian President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Weizman asks: "What if we had told Sadat when he arrived, 'sorry go back and be elected democratically, then we will talk to you?'"

In the decade since, "there has been no will to achieve the spirit of Camp David," he charges, adding that the will certainly doesn't exist among Likud leaders today.

He leans over the table, "Let me tell you, I believe Menachem

Begin resigned because he signed the Camp David accords, not because of Lebanon. I believe he resigned because he realised afterwards just what he had signed. He knew that he couldn't fulfil Camp David, because in doing so he would have to put the future of Greater Israel in jeopardy."

"Now what Begin signed, Arafat and Shamir have been left to fulfil—one a man who voted against Camp David, and the other a man who abstained."

"They are between the devil and the deep blue sea. And anyone who knows the Herut party knows that the relinquishment of Sinai and the dismantling of the settlements there was the limit of what they could do."

The current election plan, therefore, is not a "courageous" political initiative, or an attempt to seek a settlement between Israel and the Arab World. Rather it is merely a political compromise between Labour and the Likud. The best hope, says Weizman, is that the ongoing Labour-Likud dispute over U.S. peace proposals and the Israeli plan ultimately will bring about a crisis between the two Israeli parties—and Labour will finally "stand on its principles."

"One optimistic thing," he concludes, "We are going in the right direction, only in the wrong way."

"History is pushing us to sit and talk to the PLO. The whole world, Japan, Europe and America, are talking to Arafat."

"Only we are mumbling about whether this Mohammed or this Abdullah would be kosher to sit on a delegation, to talk about elections. We're going to Nablus via Hongkong."

OPEN FORUM

Go ahead, stop the blackmail

IT COMES as no bolt from the blue that the United States has reared its head and vowed to fight the Arab move to upgrade the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the United Nations General Assembly. We have seen enough and more of the American attitude at the various U.N. agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), against formal PLO status as the "government" of the State of Palestine. Everyone expected the U.S. to use its financial clout to preempt such moves and sure enough it did. It is not a question of legitimacy or logic, but rather a declaration of war against all that the Palestinian struggle stands and hopes to achieve.

But, what is surprising this time around is Washington's threat to cut off its contributions to the entire United Nations system if the General Assembly voted to grant state status to Palestine. Adding insult to injury, the American delegate to the world body, Thomas Pickering, has gone to the extent of suggesting that the PLO stood to risk its dialogue with the U.S. if it pressed ahead with its quest to acquire upgraded status at the U.N.

From a first look, one fails to find any justification behind the American threat simply because funding the U.N. is an agreement between the American government and the world body and should have nothing whatsoever to do with any move undertaken by the General Assembly under a majority decision. But then, we have had the bitter experience of Washington violating the basic headquarters agreement with the U.N. by denying a visa to the head of the PLO to allow him to address the General Assembly last year.

However, the fact remains that funding the United Nations is a commitment that the United States undertook under the charter of the world body and it remains a firm obligation no matter how Washington or any other party looks at it. It is neither charity nor a loan, as Washington appears to consider it.

Again, another point that should not be overlooked is that the PLO is not seeking formal membership at the U.N. as a state, but the status of an "observer state." By challenging the Arab move, which is sure to be endorsed by a majority vote in the General Assembly, it and when formally presented, the U.S. is also questioning the fundamental right of the U.N. to invite any state as an observer with no voting rights.

The basic fibre of the American position is clear: it is not only convinced that the aspiration of the Palestinians to set up an independent state is a pipedream but will also fight all along the way to preempt any move designed to reaffirm one of the fundamental elements of the Palestinian quest.

For the PLO, it is not a simple matter of changing the nameplate at the General Assembly as Pickering seems fit to see it; an observer state status will be another cornerstone for the aspired-for Palestinian state. The European-supported American contention, whether stated in public or not, that the "State of Palestine" does not have defined borders as other observer states at the U.N. such as Switzerland, North Korea or South Korea does not hold much water since the American hostility towards the Palestinian people as an entity is much too pronounced in every American move.

On a different level, American officials are sure to argue with the Arabs and other pro-Palestinian Third World countries that the administration is helplessly bound by the congressional bill that was passed recently which stipulates that Washington should cut off funds to any party that sought to upgrade the PLO's status. But, then, it is a matter that should be handled between the administration and American congressmen whose strings are pulled by the Zionist lobby in Washington. It is the administration's funeral and the Arab World, the PLO or any other party should have nothing to do with it.

If it is any consolation, the Arab group at the U.N. has decided to go ahead with its effort to upgrade the PLO status regardless of the American threat, which could at best be described as blackmail. That should also explain why Pickering added a new element to the situation by raising the issue of the American-PLO dialogue. It is obvious that the U.S. has realised that there is very little it could do to block the Arab resolution and has now shifted the pressure to the PLO itself.

It is apparent that Pickering's pointed reference to the Tunis dialogue and "serious consequences for the peace process (and) a lot of very important issues" that could be imperilled by the PLO bid means only one thing: the Bush administration will take its hands off the steering of the so-called peace process and might even retract the five-point formula tabled by Secretary of State James Baker. Big deal, isn't it? Washington is threatening to call off a plan which, in the first place, was destined to get nowhere in its present form and content. If anything, it is aimed at promoting Israel's version of a solution to the Palestinian problem. It neither addresses the fundamentals nor does it offer any hope of ever addressing them.

By extension, the American stand also seems to challenge the PLO to cope with a situation where the Israeli occupation will further tighten screws against the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

That leaves the question of the Tunis dialogue, which, according to Pickering, the PLO stands to lose. But then, what tangible progress has the dialogue produced other than formally reaffirming the American position in clear terms that Washington is totally opposed to the idea of an independent Palestinian state? Is there any purpose in continuing the dialogue, with the PLO hoping against hope that some miracle could bring about a change in the American stand?

So, logic dictates that if the price the PLO has to pay in return for an upgraded status at the U.N. is its worthless dialogue with the United States, let it be so, and leave the United Nations to grapple with the American threat to cut off its funding. If indeed, Washington makes good its threat, then there could no longer be any ambiguity over what lurks behind the much-touted American reaffirmation of people's right to self-determination, independence, freedom, liberty, integrity, sovereignty and what not. It is and will remain to be a question of a superpower, knocked senseless into a state of stupor by its own military and economic muscles, challenging international legitimacy.

By the same token, what is the purpose behind the continued existence of the United Nations anyway if the world body is held to ransom and vulnerable to arms-twisting? If the cut-off in American contribution means an end to the U.N., let it be so. The world would be a better place without an organisation which is rendered toothless and deprived of its purportedly international supremacy and power whenever it comes to an issue of a people who are straining against the chains of occupation.

It would seem naive or even radical to suggest such a scenario, but if the world has to stand up and fight for its people's rights it is the only course of action at the U.N. Isn't the protection of people's rights one of the pillars of the world body? Well, let it move to defend its raison d'être, come what may.

It is time the international community woke up from its resigned attitude towards the de facto situation and challenge American blackmail based on American financial clout to realise American objectives and impose American will.

P.V. Vivekanand

Anger over Khmer Rouge has U.S. on defensive

By Alan Elmer

Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. policy on Cambodia is under attack in Congress and the media and President George Bush has been accused of playing into the hands of Khmer Rouge mass murderers.

The administration supports a peace settlement for Cambodia under which Khmer Rouge would be included in an interim government, in spite of their role in the deaths of more than one million people in the 1970s.

Officials have had to adopt an increasingly defensive tone in explaining this policy as fighting has intensified since the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia in September after a 10-year occupation.

"Our primary objective, just as it is for concerned congressmen and editorial writers, is to prevent the Khmer Rouge from being able to take power in Cambodia," a senior administration official said.

"We're as concerned about that as anybody else around town. That's often not acknowledged or believed but it happens to be true."

The Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh in 1975 after a long guerrilla war against Cambodia's U.S.-backed leaders.

Over the next three years, Western governments say more than one million Cambodians were murdered as suspected enemies of the new rulers or died from overwork and lack of health care.

They returned to the jungle after they were removed from power by invading Vietnamese troops in 1979.

The U.S. administration believes the best way to control the Khmer Rouge is to have a settlement monitored by an international



The conference will assure the political rights of the Khmer Rouge ...

al peacekeeping force and an agreement by all parties, including China which arms the Khmer Rouge, to cut off arms supplies to Cambodian factions.

An attempt to negotiate a settlement in Paris last summer failed and the Vietnamese pulled out unilaterally.

Since then, the focus has switched from the negotiating table to the battlefield with both the Khmer Rouge and U.S.-backed guerrillas led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk taking on the Communist forces of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

A New York Times editorial called Washington's policy "worse than stagnant... repulsive." The Washington Post and other influential newspapers have expressed similar views.

When Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Lambertson briefed a House of Representatives subcommittee on U.S. policy towards Vietnam, the subject quickly switched to Cambodia and he underwent angry questioning.

"There's less and less willingness to tolerate the administration's policy. We have become nothing but pawns in the hands of the Khmer Rouge," said Democrat Chet Atkins.

The big fear is that with the withdrawal of the Vietnamese, the Khmer Rouge is the best-organised and best-disciplined force in the field.

The U.S.-backed guerrillas are not regarded as a serious threat and officials say the performance of government forces since the withdrawal has been poor.

The longer the war goes on, the more the Khmer Rouge is likely to benefit.

"U.S. policy has been bankrupt for some time. The administration seems unwilling or unable to persuade Prince Sihanouk that the best chance is for all the anti-Khmer Rouge forces to work together," said analyst Paul Kreisberg of the private Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Reports that the Sihanouk forces have been joining the Khmer Rouge in attacks on government soldiers are likely to put the administration even more on the defensive.

The U.S. approach has been endorsed by the U.N. General Assembly but diplomats said the vote concealed growing misgivings among Western countries.

from Managua.

El Salvador's war has been at a stalemate ever since a "final offensive" launched by the guerrillas in 1981. Since then, an estimated 70,000 Salvadoreans have died, most of them civilians.

Attempts to find a negotiated solution have all collapsed over one key point which has remained essentially unchanged since 1982: The government says there can be no serious negotiations unless the rebels first lay down their arms.

To do otherwise, the government insists, would be to allow the rebels to shoot their way to the negotiating table and make a mockery of democratic elections in which the far left has fared badly.

The guerrillas reject unilateral disarmament, saying it would amount to collective suicide given the government's dismal human rights record.

The latest upsurge in the fighting has heightened El Salvador's political polarisation after a temporary thaw.

"The political space for the left that was opened in 1986, 1987 and 1988 has been closed firmly after this offensive," said a Latin diplomat.

In El Salvador, military stalemate points to war without end

NEWS ANALYSIS

"They had the army stretched to the limit," a European military expert said. "In the end, the government's superior air and fire power made the difference. But the offensive clearly showed that the rebels are a disciplined, well-coordinated force that could do it again."

More than 1,500 people are estimated to have died in the Salvadorean capital alone before the bulk of the guerrilla force slipped away and fighting died down. Many of the casualties

were civilians caught in crossfire or trapped in guerrilla-held buildings that came under army bombardment.

As has been customary since the war erupted in 1979, both sides claimed to have achieved their objectives and to be on the road to final victory.

The guerrillas said the military strength they displayed gave them a better bargaining position in eventual negotiations. The right-wing government of President Alfredo Cristiani said the fighting had proved the army was "defeating terrorism."

Stripped of all the rhetoric, diplomatic analysts say, the latest offensive shows once again that El Salvador's civil war cannot be

won militarily—and that there is little apparent willingness to solve it politically.

"Neither side can defeat the other," said a seasoned ambassador, "as long as outside support continues. If it does, this conflict could well drag on into the next century."

Over the past nine years, the United States has pumped an average \$1.2 million a day into El Salvador to prevent victory by the leftists. The FMLN has enjoyed support from Cuba and Nicaragua.

Cristiani broke relations with Nicaragua on Nov. 26 after the crash of a light aircraft said to have carried a shipment of anti-aircraft missiles for the FMLN

Focus on People

Speaker of the house

By Mariam M. Shalhin

AS AN estimated 2500 people waited in the balconies of Jordan's Parliament chamber, in the Abdali quarter of Amman, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to witness the election of the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament last Monday, an atmosphere of the euphoria prevailed. After His Majesty King Hussein opened Parliament, an underlying restlessness prevailed as the crowd, invited by parliamentarians, ex-parliamentarians and other government officials, smoked, chatted, stood, sat or just loitered around as the senators and deputies were sworn into office. The moment everyone had been waiting for grew closer; the first balloting for the speaker of the Lower House. It was a race between three candidates. If one of them could secure a majority of 41 votes out of 80 then the race would end in the first round. If not, a second vote would decide which one of the two top scorers in the first round would be the speaker. Each deputy voted and as the results were read out vote by vote, the audience stopped talking, stopped smoking, the air was still, and it was as if they had stopped breathing in anticipation.

The three candidates became two because none of them had received the absolute majority of 41 votes. Yousef Mbeideen, dubbed the Islamic candidate, got 35 votes, Suleiman Arar, the "semi-independent" candidate got 31 votes and Laith Shbeilat, the self-styled Islamic "rebel", got 14 votes.

Quickly, the votes were cast again. A harmony among the newly sworn in deputies was evident as they passed on pens to one another and exchanged pleasantries. As the names on the ballots were read out again the crowd was silent. The first forty votes were equally divided between Arar and Mbeideen. Then Arar took the lead, and once it did not stop. Arar's supporters in the crowd counted aloud and cheered as his 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 44th votes came in. The race was over and Arar, who had won one of five seats in Maan with 5,590 votes, had become the democratically elected speaker of the House of Representatives.

For those who were happy with the result and for those who were not, the day and the process that had taken place was a historical first. For critics as well supporters of the election process that took place in Jordan, a new chapter in the country's history had been opened and the people, whether attending the session or watching it on television, were there to see it happen.

Two major factors emerged from the election of the speaker of the Lower House. One was the election of Arar and the second was a more subtle but no less important development, namely the flexing muscles of a newly established democratic bloc in Parliament. The newly-formed bloc consists of 16 parliamentarians. Between Islamists and semi-independent parliamentarians, the "democrats" have chosen a third way. Although they are "small" in number, they have proved that their votes could be decisive in any "bloc" vote that takes place in Parliament.

According to reliable sources the bloc had decided Sunday night to vote for Shbeilat in the first ballot and Arar in the second ballot. Although not all 16 bloc members agreed to follow the group's decision, the vast majority did so, thus assuring Arar's victory. But every victory has its price and parliamentary observers believe that the democratic bloc will be wooed by the two larger blocs in all future bloc issue votes.

This week the newly elected Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, (Suleiman Arar), talks to Focus on People about his views vis-a-vis the future of Parliament and the country.

A self-styled independent, Arar is a native of the southern city of Maan, which has been a gateway to travellers to and from the Hijaz, Damascus and Egypt for centuries. After finishing high school in his hometown, Arar went to the University of Alexandria to study law. After receiving a degree in law, he joined Jordan's diplomatic corps. Returning to Jordan after serving the Foreign Ministry abroad, Arar held a series of government and non-government posts which included those of Karak assistant governor, director general of the national unions, Al Rai chief editor and chairman of the board as well as president of the Journalists Association.

Arar says that he places particular importance on press laws and regulations and is in favour of liberalising Jordan's newspapers. It is Arar's long and extensive services in government posts that, in his opinion, failed to give him a more extensive victory in the election. "The people who went to the polls wanted to vote for a 'Mr. Clean' and to most that meant someone who had had no connection with the government," he says. "This was sad, but that's what happened. Those government employees who had missed their positions for personal gains had hurt the reputation of all government employees and once a reputation is damaged it is very difficult to regain the confidence of the people."

Maan had one of the lowest electorate turnouts for Islamic or Muslim Brotherhood candidates in the Kingdom, and only one, Yousef Al Athem, won one of the five seats allocated to district. Arar attributes this to the "non-fundamentalist" character of the region and the close personal relationships that the other non-Islamist candidates had with their constituency. "Our electorate knew us, they knew Suleiman Arar, although I now live in Amman I am no stranger to them or their wants and needs. They knew whom they were voting for."

Election observers have indicated that Athem lobbied heavily among the female community in the south and in Aqaba in particular, with the help of sisters and wives of Brotherhood members. Unofficial estimates indicate that Athem received most of his votes from women, a group that Arar admits he had given specific attention to.

Arar held major government posts from 1976 to 1984. In 1984

he served as minister of interior in the government of Mudar Badran. He served as minister of state in 1979 in the government of the late Abdul Hamid Staraf. In 1980 he held the post of minister of agriculture. In 1982 he was speaker of the National Consultative Council and in 1984 he was appointed deputy prime minister and minister of interior in the government of Ahmad Obaidat.

Asked whether the Jordanian people who have not participated in the democratic process for such a long time were sufficiently prepared for the democratic processes in which they were asked to participate, Arar said he thought they certainly were. "Some people have suggested that Jordanians are not politically mature enough to deal with democracy. This is an argument that only colonialists or like-minded people could possibly forward. Jordan has four universities, a high standard of elementary and secondary education and about 20,000 university students studying abroad. Now if that promotes ignorance amongst a people then I don't know what doesn't. Although some of our previous governments have not allowed for participation by the people in the decision-making process that has now been changed. It is quite clear that the democratic and trouble-free elections that took place on Nov. 8, surprised people in many parts of the world, because it was a clear indication once and for all that democratic and free elections without disturbances are possible in the Arab World," Arar said.

His Majesty King Hussein has indicated that he will allow for the formation of political parties sometime in the near future and moves to legislate such a move are expected to move through Parliament. Arar is of the opinion that all political parties should be allowed to operate provided that "confirm to the constitution," which he expects they will.

Although some parliamentarians expressed the desire to increase military spending during their campaign rallies, Arar feels that to actually increasing the defence budget may not be timely. "We cannot afford to reduce military spending because we have an extremely long and vulnerable border with an unfriendly military giant that is backed by the United States. But considering our economic situation I don't think we should increase it right now. If in the future we have the financial means then I am certainly in favour of boosting our defence capabilities, but right now we don't have those financial means," Arar explained.

In Arar's native south agricultural opportunities are few and business ventures have so far failed to take root in any significant fashion, Arar believes that developing vocational skills may be a key to making the people of the south more self-sufficient.

Although many Jordanian residents of the south have frequently complained that the south was neglected by the government in Amman, and was not given the same developmental opportunities as other regions in the Kingdom, Arar disagrees. "The south was supplied with all the basics. Every village has paved streets, water, electricity, and telephones. Hospitals, schools and now most recently a university are available to all of the southern region of Jordan. The only thing that has become evident, especially in the most recent period of economic belt tightening, is that the south there is a need for employment. I believe jobs should be created in the south for the southerners, they should not be obliged to come to Amman to find work. Although there are major industries in the south, such as the potash company, the cement factory (Tafleh), the glass factory (Maan), the phosphate company and the port in Aqaba there is still a need to create employment opportunities for at least 1,000 people in the south," Arar says.

As the new speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Arar believes that economic issues should be the number one priority in Parliament. "We are faced with economic difficulties on a scale that we have never been faced with before, we must therefore face them and attempt to deal with them. Don't ask me how, we are faced with a huge national debt and we are a relatively poor country, but with time and cooperation we will find a way. We have always had some economic difficulties but never on this scale, it needs special attention," he conceded.

As a second priority Arar said, he "would like to concentrate on agricultural development which I think has a lot more potential. We have the potential to increase our fruit and vegetable exports and decrease our dependency on fruit, vegetable and grain imports. If we have the potential then we should do more to meet it."

Another development Arar said he would look forward to seeing soon "is the opening up of press freedoms, there are a few laws concerning freedom of the press which could do with some modernisation."

While many elected parliamentarians have already called for the prosecution of those accused of economic crimes against the state, Arar points out that "now we are no longer on the campaign trail, we are responsible public officials and we can't go around accusing people of things. If we have proof and are asked to judge we must do so and do so fairly. The people don't like to feel that they have been cheated and this is understandable, but there must be justice for all and no one is guilty until he is proven guilty. Smoking a twenty-five dinar cigar may make someone suspect in the eyes of the people but it does not make him guilty," Arar said.

Arar pointed out that "in Jordan everyone is someone, each person is a sheikh in his own right, even if he only has bread to eat and tea to drink, he will not allow anyone to fool him or to misrepresent him, especially in Parliament, so we, the parliamentarians will be looking out for the public interest, that for sure."



Arab-American students in Washington D.C.

Arabs in America

By A.J. Dickerson
The Associated Press

DETROIT — An Arab-American community centre is burned, twice. A couple returns home from their mosque to find "Go back" scrawled in shoe polish on their walls and carpet.

"They put sludge in my pita bread, took my lunch out. They wrote 'sand nigger' on my time-card," said Lebanese-American Fred Abbas, a Wayne County sewer plant worker who won \$500,000 in a discrimination suit. The county is seeking a new trial.

But, nationally, anti-Arab sentiments are dwindling as people stop stereotyping Arab-Americans. So says Faris Bonha of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in Washington, D.C. which represents 2.5 million people.

In the early years of their immigration, Arab-Americans of their many nationalities tended to cluster together as other ethnic groups did. But as they fanned out over the country, the second and third generations, acquiring education, tended to assimilate, although keeping their ethnic devotion to their regional culinary tastes from lamb dishes to pita bread.

Now, some Arab-American experts say, the Lebanese and Palestinian issues have reawakened a sense of identity.

In greater Detroit, home by most counts to some 250,000 Arab-Americans, the largest concentration in North America, the immigrants keep coming and tensions remain. So says Terry Alwal, a board member on the ADC's Detroit chapter, and a Catholic who emigrated from Palestine to the United States in 1972 when she was 15.

Of the 22 Arab nations, most immigrants here are from Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Yemen and the Chaldees, the ancient areas between the Tigris and Euphrates that constituted Babylon. Some Arabs are Christians; others Muslims. The Chal-

deans are Roman Catholics from Iraq.

"Detroit is the Ellis Island of the Arab community. At first, it was economics — the car industry gave jobs to lots of unskilled people. And people bring families," says Alwal, whose chapter received threatening letters after a bomb brought down Pan Am Flight 103 in December in Scotland.

"We always get threats. It's normal. It's a comedy here. We pass them around and laugh," says Ismael Ahmed, director of the Arab Community Centre for Economic and Social Services, better known as ACCESS.

ACCESS, founded in 1971, moved into its third home in Dearborn last summer. The first two burned, says Ahmed, who blames arsonists. "I think people are frightened. Whole blocks become Arab very quickly," says Brooklyn-born Ahmed, who is Lebanese-Egyptian.

Between 3,000 and 10,000 Arabs land yearly in Detroit, many from war-torn Lebanon.

"Every day we see more coming," says Haifa Fakhouri, director of the Arab-American and Chaldean Communities Social Services.

More problems.

The No. 1 issue is unemployment because of the language. "Most come from villages that have lived the same way for hundreds of years," Ahmed says. "Their skills aren't very transferable."

But that was so when the first immigrants arrived. Their basic talents were agricultural and mercantile, so they took jobs at anything from grocery stores to peddling pots and pans in rural areas.

Arab immigration to the United States began with a trickle more than 100 years ago. When peddlers found business good, they stayed. A wave came from Lebanon region after 1900, some to escape the crumbling Ottoman Empire's oppression. In 1919, empires built the nation's first mosque, in the Detroit enclave of

Highland Park.

"I think the thing that attracted people to this area was it was a nice place to live," says Henry Saad, a Bloomfield Hills lawyer and a third-generation Lebanese.

The thousands who followed them to greater Detroit were lured by auto industry wages.

"Detroit was booming. The real question is why they continue to come here," says Nabeel Abraham, an anthropologist at Henry Ford Community College.

"These people wouldn't be here except for the war...that's my suspicion."

"One of the factors making Detroit different is we have this constant influx of immigrants and they pull you back from assimilation," Abraham says. "They're always trying to recreate home."

Newer immigrants create some stress in Dearborn, dotted with Arabic coffeehouses, restaurants and markets and home to some 20,000 Arabs.

New arrivals come to join families here, or seek comfort in a place with the familiarity of their homeland. But they find life harder than did their predecessors. At ACCESS, more than 16,000 families last year received English lessons, and got help with immigration, jobs, medical care, clothing and housing. "The problem is, they need everything," Ahmed says.

"Twenty-five percent unemployment in Detroit is better than getting your head busted," says George Moses, past president of the National Association of Arab Americans, the only registered lobby group for immigrants and their descendants. "American has been good to Arab-Americans."

As earlier immigrants join the mainstream, they say they're less tied to the diverse Arab community. But Arab antipathy doesn't make distinctions between the various nations, religions or cultures. Ties that bind include fighting discrimination or problems in their homeland.

"You get a crisis, like a war in the Middle East, people pull

together, but it's temporal," Abraham says.

"There is a general feeling of pan-Arabism. One, they have a culture, a history, a background worth preserving. And there is a feeling that Arabs haven't gotten a fair shake. And third, there's a feeling we're under attack — stereotyping."

Stereotyping is blamed for unconfirmed reports that Nazir Jafar of Dearborn may have unwittingly carried the bomb that caused the Pan Am crash. Alwal says, "Intimidations, like last year's scrawlings at the Arab couple's home, increased in greater Detroit this year, she says."

The ADC discontinued its yearly violence report. Its 1986 report found the most incidents in Michigan, followed by California, Washington, D.C. and New York. Southern California has the second-largest Arab-American concentration, and another large population is in New York.

Raising public consciousness was one goal when the ADC was founded in 1980 after outrage over "Abscam," the FBI corruption investigation that had agents posing as wealthy Arabs.

The ADC and NAAA are quick to point out well-known Arab-Americans: F. Murray Abraham, who won an Oscar for his portrayal of Wolfgang Mozart's jealous rival composer in the movie Amadeus, U.S. Senate majority leader George Mitchell, actor Danny Thomas, heart surgeon Michael DeBakey, radio's Casey Kasem, poet Khalil Gibran, Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Doug Flutie, consumer advocate Ralph Nader and teen pop singer Tiffany. In early days, many well-known Arab Americans tended to play down their ethnicity, fade into the fabric of society.

"Now it's spinning, it's going to take off. We just had an Arab-American appointed in the White House," Sibani said, referring to White House chief of staff John Sununu, whose grandfather was Lebanese — Arab News.

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Jordan, London Club reported in agreement

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan has agreed debt rescheduling terms with a steering committee of bank creditors grouped in the London Club, banking sources said Wednesday.

They said the 90 or so Western and Arab banks involved would probably approve the deal, which gives Jordan easier terms than the originally agreed in principle more than 11 weeks ago.

Then Amman pledged to pay interest of about \$80 million due in 1989 by the end of the year. Banks will now let it defer payment of half the total until the first quarter of 1990, the sources said.

When Jordan is current with interest payments, the banks would be prepared to provide new loans worth \$50 million on Dec. 15. It would pay \$16 million on Jan. 10, \$13 million on Feb. 15 and the balance by March 31.

The sources said the banks had also cut their management fees, but no details were available.

Jordanian officials declined to comment but they confirmed last week that a new accord was being discussed.

The initial September agreement had said banks would defer repayments of \$775 million of principal due from Jan. 1, 1989 to June 30, 1991 on debts of \$1.1 billion.

But Jordan's cabinet refused to approve the terms. The finance ministry then sought to cut the agreed interest margin from 13/16 point over LIBOR to 5/8 point and asked banks to release about \$48 million in undischarged loans.

The latest agreement does not alter the interest rate, described by one source as "bargain basement", but the new money element will net Jordan roughly what it would have received if the undischarged parts of current loans had been forthcoming.

Jordan's foreign debt was \$8.2 billion at the end of 1988, including \$1.1 billion in undischarged loans. Before rescheduling it faced repayments of \$1.21 billion this year and \$1.28 billion in 1990.

It reached a rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club of government creditors in July and has since signed five bilateral accords with club members.

Gulf International Bank BSC and Standard Chartered Bank are co-chairmen of the London Club steering committee set up in July. Other members are Banque Nationale De Paris, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. and Union Des Banques Arabes et Francaises (UBAF).

Tunisia lowers growth forecast

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has cut its economic growth forecast for 1989 to just three per cent, barely half its original prediction.

The 1989 budget said gross domestic product would rise by 5.5 per cent this year, but the government revised this forecast in mid-year to 3.5 per cent after a second successive year of drought.

Budget documents for 1990 reduced the forecast further downwards to three per cent.

But they said a hoped-for 1990 grain harvest of 900,000 tonnes, compared with 626,000 in 1989, and a doubling of the olive harvest to 450,000 tonnes would help to push economic growth up to five per cent in 1990.

Larger than expected imports of food and a fall in revenue from Libyan tourists would produce a current account deficit this year of about 370 million dinars (\$390 million), the documents said.

The 1989 budget predicted a deficit of 285 million dinars (\$300 million).

The documents said the deficit would fall to 340 million dinars (\$360 million) next year if the 1990 harvest was good and exports met a growth target of 9.7 per cent at fixed prices.

They also said Tunisia had to borrow more than expected to cover this year's deficit. Outstanding external debt would reach 5.43 billion dinars (\$5.74 billion) by the end of the year compared with 4.975 billion (\$5.24 billion) a year earlier.

They predicted that external debt would rise to 5.825 billion dinars (\$6.2 billion), or 54.6 per cent of gross domestic product, by the end of 1990.

Prices of some foodstuffs will go up in 1990 as a result of cuts in government subsidies, the documents said.

The cost of subsidies rose this year to 390 million dinars (\$410 million) from 275 million (\$290 million) in 1988, but would fall in 1990 to 300 million (\$315 million).

Subsidies on bread, sugar, wheat, rice and cooking oil are politically sensitive in Tunisia as many people would find it hard to pay market prices.

Fiat signs landmark car deal with Soviet Union

ROME (Agencies) — Italian motor giant Fiat signed a landmark car production deal with the Soviet Union Tuesday, setting the tone for what the Italian government and industry hope will turn into an export bonanza to the East Bloc.

Fiat SPA will set up a joint venture with the Soviet Union to produce 300,000 cars a year for both the Soviet domestic market and export to the West. Fiat Managing Director Cesare Romiti told reporters.

The deal is the largest of several to be signed with the Soviet Union this week, with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev due to start a three-day visit to Italy Wednesday.

Many other Italian companies are signing new contracts or taking existing deals a stage further, often resulting from contacts made during a major trade exhibition which Italy staged in Moscow last year.

Italy is Moscow's fourth biggest Western trading partner and has a long history of economic cooperation.

Under the Fiat deal, production at the Yelabuga plant, south-east of Moscow, would start in late 1993 or early 1994. Fiat is taking a 30 per cent stake in the project and state-run Soviet company Elaz will own the other 70 per cent.

Romiti, who signed the accord with Soviet Automotive Industry Minister Nikolai Pugin, said the joint venture's A-93 car would not be derived from the Fiat Panda, as reported in the press, but would be a new vehicle developed jointly by Soviet and Italian technicians.

He said it would be a three- or five-door saloon model, 3.45 metres long, with a maximum speed of 150 kilometres per hour.

"It's a new car which should be able to compete with Western vehicles but is also adapted for use in the Soviet Union," he said.

He said Fiat had also been asked to consider advising on a separate phase of the Yelabuga plant to make the smaller, all-Soviet Oka 1 car.

The Soviet Union ultimately wants each of the Yelabuga plant's planned three sections to produce 300,000 cars a year, of which the Fiat venture would represent one third.

Pugin told journalists the Soviet Union intended to boost vehicle production from its current 1.3 million cars a year, covering 45 per cent of domestic demand, to about 2.3 million or 60 per cent of demand in the early 1990s.

The accord marks a new stage in Fiat's relations with the Soviet Union. In the mid-1960s it helped set up a plant at Togliattigrad which produced a version of the Fiat 124 car.

Romiti said the new A-93 car would carry both the Fiat and a Soviet logo, and would be marketed outside the Soviet Union through the Fiat organisation.

Meanwhile, Soviet and American partners have signed a joint venture deal to build and operate a \$2-billion petrochemical complex in western Siberia.

The plant in Tobolsk will pro-

cess petrochemicals that will be used to make consumer products, largely automotive and medical items, for both Soviet and foreign markets, according to a press release put out by the project.

A consortium of Western firms, led by Combustion Engineering of Stamford, Connecticut entered the deal with the Tobolsk Petrochemical Company, a subsidiary of the Soviet ministry of chemical and oil refining industries.

The first phase, construction of the plant, is expected to be finished by 1993, the release said.

The plant, which will process Siberian oil and gas, will adhere to environmental standards as strict as any of those in the West, it added.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Ministry stresses quality of products

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply Wednesday circulated instructions to all food suppliers and importers as well as proprietors of groceries and supermarkets to strictly adhere to production and expiry dates affixed on their products. It said that this was being done in line with regulations and local standards and specifications and also to safeguard public health safety.

The circular appealed to all stores which have food products that are no more fit for human consumption to contact the ministry and arrange for their destruction. Of late, the Ministry of Supply had been referring great numbers of local merchants to the Martial Court for violating regulations concerning food supplies. Many of these merchants were fined by the court for manipulating prices, selling foodstuff unfit for consumption, refraining from selling commodities or failing to place price tags on different products displayed in their stores.

Uganda devalues shilling by 8%

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda had devalued its currency by eight per cent, the second adjustment in five weeks. Perez Buhumbe, deputy central bank governor, told Reuters the shilling had from Monday been trading at the new rate of 370 shilling to the dollar, from 340 set Oct. 24 when Uganda devalued its shilling by 41 per cent.

"There has been an adjustment of the official exchange rate of the (shilling against the) United States dollar to reflect the true economic situation," Buhumbe said. Diplomats and economists said Uganda had slashed the shilling because of pressure from traditional financiers such as the World Bank, who believe its exchange rate was unrealistic. The devaluation came few days before Uganda was due to start talks with Western donors in Paris to seek aid worth \$650 million. It needs fresh funding for its four-year economic rehabilitation programme as well as to reduce the effects of tough structural reforms.

Carlsberg reports higher profit

COPENHAGEN (R) — Danish brewer Carlsberg has reported a 17 per cent rise in annual profits and said it was continuing to expand overseas. "We were very pleased with developments in the Far East, but we also increased sales in Portugal, Cameroon, Sweden and Germany, so the trend is more or less worldwide," Managing Director Poul Svanholm told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Carlsberg earlier reported net profits rose to 632 million crowns (\$91 million) in the year ended Sept. 30 from 540 million crowns (\$78 million) the year before. Turnover increased to 10.2 billion crowns (\$1.47 billion) from 10 billion (\$1.44 billion). Beer sales rose three per cent in 1988/89, with overseas sales bringing the strongest growth. Svanholm said a long, hot European summer this year had little to do with the increase. "It helped," he said. "Of course a hot summer is better than a cold one, but it doesn't make a big difference over a full year. And remember we have large sales in countries where the weather is the same all year round." Carlsberg owns or has shares in breweries in 30 countries and a worldwide workforce of 12,600.

Israel plans aggressive strategy

BRUSSELS (R) — Israel needs an aggressive export strategy to conquer the single European Community (EC) market planned for 1992, the Economic planning minister was quoted as saying. "We don't have much time left," Yitzhak Mordechai added in an interview with the Belgian daily La Libre Belgique. "It's like when you're trying to penetrate a military formation... you have to take advantage of brief openings on the flank. If you wait for the openings from the front, you're lost." Mordechai said he had come to visit EC headquarters in Brussels to find out which export sectors the government should pinpoint for special help. "The whole question is to find out at which moment and in what sector European demand and Israeli supply will meet." He was also quoted as saying that the single market offered Israel a chance to boost annual gross domestic product growth to between eight and ten per cent from three to four per cent.

Algerian trade team discusses transport cooperation with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Algerian trade delegation discussed with Jordanian officials here Wednesday ways to boost maritime and air transport between Algeria and Jordan with a view to increasing import/export operations between the two countries.

Discussions took place with Dr. Mohammad Smadi, secretary-general of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications who briefed the visitors on the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route which can serve the Asian and African parts of the Arab World.

Smadi also discussed with the Algerians the prospect of concluding a bilateral agreement on transport in a bid to promote economic and trade ties.

The head of the Algerian delegation explained his country's recently adopted economic reform programme which is bound to pave the way for Algeria's free and open trade with the outside world.

He also voiced hope that the two countries will launch fruitful cooperation and bolster economic and trade relations.

Mohammad Asfour, president

of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce who earlier met with the Algerian team to discuss trade, attended the meeting.

Also Wednesday, the Algerian team called at the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company in Salt and heard a briefing on its production and future plans.

The team was told that the company exports its products to 25 Arab and foreign countries. The team watched a documentary film depicting the company's development.

OPEC signs new output accord

VIENNA, Austria (Agencies) — OPEC's 13 ministers Tuesday night signed a production deal designed to curb cheating on quotas in the first half of next year and boost prices to a minimum of \$18 a barrel.

The pact, reached on the fourth day of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) formal, regular winter conference, will partially succeed in bringing down production from its current level of nearly 23.5 million barrels a day, analysts said.

It will slow a decline in oil prices expected in next year's first two quarters, when oil demand traditionally weakens, the analysts said.

The ministers agreed to raise their production ceiling to 22 million barrels a day, from the current 20.5 million barrels a day, and what was a "target price" of \$18 a barrel became a "minimum reference price."

Analysts were not as positive as the oil ministers, but Fergus Macleod, an oil analyst with the London investment firm Barclays de Zoete Wedd Ltd. said: "It looks better than most people thought was possible."

He added: "Kuwait has clearly made a number of concessions," Macleod said.

The analyst's estimate for production under the deal was 22.8 million barrels a day, a far less optimistic projection than Nazer's and above the expected demand of 21.5 million barrels a day.

Some countries will not produce their full quotas, Subroto said. He identified Indonesia, but he declined to name others.

The logic is that as production is curbed, prices will "steady, if not, even strengthen," he said.

OPEC's basket price of crude oils now stands at \$17.74 a barrel, Subroto said.

"We feel that if it deviates too much from the minimum reference price, then we will meet," Subroto said.

Hisham Mazer, Saudi Arabia's influential oil minister, told reporters: "We have covered most of the leakage, in fact there is just one leakage."

He added, "there is more discipline now, there is more commitment to the quota and the production ceiling."

The deal should cut production by up to 1.3 million barrels a day, Nazer said.

Prices "will steady go up after the market ascertains the durability of the agreement," Nazer said.

OPEC's eight-member monitoring committee will meet in March "in order to assess the market," the ministers said in their communiqué.

Late Tuesday, North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded international crude oil, was quoted at a spot price of \$18.30 a barrel in light trading, down from \$18.45 late Monday.

The ministers came up with a fragile solution to demands from Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for bigger portions of the production.

The two have been producing two million barrels a day each, or about double their current quotas.

Kuwait agreed to a quota of 1.5 million barrels a day, up from 1.15 million barrels a day, and the United Arab Emirates agreed to a steady quota of 1.095 million barrels a day.

Some countries will not produce their full quotas, Subroto said. He identified Indonesia, but he declined to name others.

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British chancellor forecasts higher inflation

LONDON (R) — Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major has prepared financial markets for more bad news when Britain's November inflation figures are released in another three weeks.

"Next month... the recent increase in (home-loan) mortgage rates is bound to make the

November figure disappointing," the finance minister said in a parliamentary debate.

Major gave no specific forecast but his unusual warning about the November retail price index due Dec. 15 weakened the pound sterling.

In what several British newspapers reported as a possible policy shift, Major's speech did not contain the usual formula stressing government determination to avoid a depreciation of sterling, which has fallen some 15 per cent against the German mark this year.

Government sources said Major was simply keen to avoid repeating himself.

The p. cy of Major's predecessor, Nigel Lawson, to link sterling to the mark, was at the heart of the former chancellor's conflict over economic policy with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Lawson resigned last month.

In parliament, Major reiterated the government's strategy of keeping interest rates high as long as necessary to cut inflation.

"Bringing it down will not be easy. Inflation is stubborn and it will take time," he said. "I know that is not a popular message but it is an essential one."

Mortgage rates for home-

buyers in Britain have risen an average one per cent this month and analysts said they could push the annual inflation figure, now 7.3 per cent, back towards the politically sensitive eight per cent barrier.

The cost of home loans has risen with bank lending rates that have doubled to 15 per cent in the last 18 months in an effort to curb inflation.

Opinion polls published Sunday showed the Conservative Party's popularity at its lowest rating in nine years.

One poll in the Observer newspaper showed two-thirds of those questioned believed Thatcher, 64, showed signs before the next election due by mid-1992. Of those, 44 per cent said she should go at once.

Thatcher, who next month faces her first challenge for party leadership in 14 years, has vowed to remain in office as long as wanted by her party and the electorate.

At the end of a six-day debate, the House of Commons voted Tuesday night by an overwhelming Conservative majority to accept the government's annual policy statement read by Queen Elizabeth last week at parliament's state opening.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELVAT
RUHYR
PAWDUR
BISMUT

THE PEESIMANT WAS HANGING AROUND THE DELICATESSEN STORE BECAUSE HE WAS WAITING FOR THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: LEAVE PAUSE FERRET HARROW
Answer: What a rainy day is for a cab driver—FARE WEATHER

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

WOODSTOCK: I KNOW THE ANSWER, MAAM... I JUST CAN'T THINK... BUT I KNOW THE ANSWER... I KNOW IT...

CHARLIE BROWN: IT'S RIGHT ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE...

WOODSTOCK: CAN YOU MAKE IT OUT FROM THERE?

MUTT: DO YOU HAVE CHANGE FOR A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL?

JEFF: I'VE GOT TWO FIVES AND A TEN!

JEFF: THAT'S ALL DO GOOD!

MUTT: HEY, WHERE'S THE TWENTY DOLLAR BILL?

JEFF: RIGHT THERE ON THE TABLE, DEAR!

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Wednesday November 29, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	French franc	105.3	106.4
U.S. dollar	641.0	647.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	446.6	451.1
Pound Sterling	1004.5	1014.5	Dutch guilder	318.7	321.9
Deutschemark	359.7	363.3	Swedish crown	100.6	101.6
Swiss franc	402.1	406.1	Italian lira (for 100)	48.7	49.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	170.2	171.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES	
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.	
One Sterling	1.5645/55
One U.S. dollar	1.1660/70
	1.7800/07
	2.0077/84
	1.5894/904
	37.38/41
	6.0740/90
	1313/1314
	143.40/50
	6.3675/725
	6.7975/825
	6.9100/50
	410.25/410.75
One ounce of gold	410.25/410.75
	U.S. dollars
	Canadian dollar
	Deutschemarks
	Dutch guilders
	Swiss francs
	Belgian francs
	French francs
	Italian lire
	Japanese yen
	Swedish crowns
	Norwegian crowns
	Danish crowns

Nadia Comaneci made gymnastic history at 14

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, who fled to Hungary Tuesday, made Olympic and gymnastic history at the age of 14 by being the first gymnast to win maximum 10-point scores for her display.

Over five days of competition at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, Comaneci won seven perfect scores, a record only matched for the first time at last year's Seoul Olympics, with her highly developed concentration and timing coupled with elements of risk and daring.

The undisputed queen of gymnastics left Montreal with three gold, one silver and one bronze medals, having broken the Soviet Union's domination of women's gymnastics — an achievement which was to cause her problems in following years.

The four foot 11 inches (1.49 metres) tall Comaneci endeared herself to the army of journalists who besieged her after her Montreal triumph when, asked what her greatest wish was, she replied: "I want to go home."

Although she managed only one individual world title and one world team gold, Comaneci won a record three successive European championships and went on to win two more gold and two silver medals at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

She later wrote an autobiography, completed her studies in physical education at Bucharest University and became an international gymnastics judge.

Nadia Elena Comaneci was born on November 12, 1961, in the Moldavian town of Gheorghiu-Dej in eastern Romania.

The daughter of a car mechanic and an office worker, she showed a tireless capacity for jumping and somersaulting which led her mother to enrol the six-year-old in a gymnastics class.

Just one year later, she was spotted at a gymnastics talent trial at her school by the husband-and-wife coaching team of Maria and Bela Karolyi.

They took over Nadia's class to convince the Romanian sports authorities of their then revolutionary theory that good results could be achieved with young gymnasts below the age of 12.

Under their strict coaching, Nadia began devoting some four hours a day to gymnastics and five to schoolwork.

At the age of nine she won all five gold medals at the Romanian Federation Cup. She made her international gymnastics debut at a contest in Poland in 1971 where she won critical acclaim for her unusual sureness and agility.

Her rise was meteoric and by 1975 she was firmly established on the Romanian national team, when she caused a sensation at the European championships by defeating the reigning world champion, Ludmila Turishcheva of the Soviet Union.

The technical purity of her performance was her most brilliant characteristic, her coaches said of her. Physically she had great strength, speed and flexibility. Mentally she had intelligence and phenomenal powers of concentration and courage.

Nadia transformed gymnastics with her European championship and Olympic victories and the sport became the domain of teenage girls with light supple bodies who could outlast mature women like Turishcheva.

The Soviet Union, which did not allow girls under 14 to compete, were caught off balance and lost their traditional domination of the sport for many years.

Following her Olympic triumph, Comaneci became the focus of several judging disputes at international contests held by the Soviet-dominated International Gymnastics Federation.

In May 1977, she walked out of the European championships in Prague with the entire Romanian gymnast team after being demoted from first to second place in the horse vault event.

The Soviet team had protested at the initial decision and saw their star, Nelli Kim, take first place over Comaneci.

Although she still managed to retain her overall European title, the Romanians alleged the judges — mostly East European and led by a Russian — were biased.

Later, they hinted that Moscow was trying to take revenge after Montreal.

Similar disputes took place at the Moscow Olympics in 1980, where Comaneci narrowly lost the overall Olympic title to Elena Davidova of the Soviet Union following protracted arguments among the judges.

Nadia, by then a mature 19-year-old woman, was already thinking of retirement to make way for the youngsters who had begun to take over the sport.

Becker beats Gilbert; Lendl, Edberg win

NEW YORK (R) — Defending champion Boris Becker struggled past old nemesis Brad Gilbert 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Tuesday, the opening night of the season-ending Masters tennis tournament.

"It was an exhausting match. I'm glad I won it," said the second-ranked West German after the nearly three-hour battle.

Earlier on Tuesday, five-time Masters champion Ivan Lendl and third-ranked Swede Stefan Edberg cruised to easy victories in their opening Round-Robin matches.

World number one Lendl avenged his French Open defeat with a 6-1, 6-3 win over 17-year-old American Michael Chang.

Chang, the French Open champion who is making his Masters debut, was overpowered by Lendl, who has been to the final of this \$3.1 million event the last nine years. For most of the match, Chang could barely get his racket on Lendl's big serve.

In the opening match of the eight-player tournament, Edberg posted a 6-4, 6-2 win over seventh-ranked American Andre Agassi.

"There's nothing you can do when someone plays like that," said Agassi, who complained of neck problems.

With his victory over Gilbert, Becker may have cleared his toughest hurdle on the way to the semifinals, though he must still play Edberg and Agassi — the other members of the tie Nastase group. Becker had lost four of his last five meetings with Gilbert.

Gilbert, ironically, had dropped the first set in each of his wins over the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion.

In Tuesday's match, however, Gilbert was up a set and a break and Becker came to pull it out.

"I just didn't capitalise when I had a chance to get him down. He really played himself back in to the match," Gilbert said.

The sixth-ranked American had Becker on the defensive in the opening set as Gilbert scored with passing shots while the West German struggled to find his booming serve.

Becker did not have a service game without facing at least one break point until eighth game of the second set when he held at 15 for 5-3.

Becker then broke Gilbert, who also was erratic on serve, to level the match.

The tense third set was a raucous affair punctuated by vocal supporters of both players in Madison Square Garden.

There were also angry exchanges between the two rivals.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1989
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is the perfect time for you to place into effect whatever conservative ideas permeate your consciousness and whatever is extraordinary or progressive.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You will need to express your charm to get the attention of a businessman. Settle disputes of your family in a huddle.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look carefully at every condition before going into a business project. Entertain friends at home with merriment.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Two successful persons will give you the best advice about business. Too much entertaining today could fatigue you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Accept new ideas from a business associate to increase income. Going on a trip with friends will be pleasant.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan to entertain others in your home for an enjoyable time. Don't allow tension to disrupt your pleasant surroundings.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to get your family to go on a trip with you. Do something special that your loved one will appreciate greatly.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Confide with a business person. You will find that friends are helpful.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1989
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have lots of interest in making some new conditions that interest you come true and you would be wise to carefully consider them and not let your enthusiasm run away with you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Work out any practical problems that pertain to your family. Enjoy intimate moments with your close attachment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Follow suggestions by a successful person for better result in business. Get away with your family whenever possible.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You will need all your skills to work out a difficult business situation. Entertain a successful person in your home today.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If a trip appears that will provide pleasure to your family, take it. Be more willing to entertain others.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are now in the position to make more money through your projects. Accept two people who are very pleasant into your home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your best investment is with the advice of a knowledgeable person. Carry through with plans to visit distant relatives.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be enthusiastic with your mate about a joint project. Accept the

advice of two experienced people about business.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make your home the center of entertaining of friends. Be more sensitive to different wishes of your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There is no limit to the success that comes to you in business. Make plans of all type to spend with attachment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look for new projects involving your family for harmony to prevail. Acquire all the business news you can for success.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Invite dynamic new people into your home. Be sure you have all the business facts you can get to be successful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Do what you can to help a good friend with a difficult problem. You will be advised to become involved in a new project.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be one of those dynamic characters who will understand very readily every side of any given situation. This can also lead to the scattering of the forces so be sure this child receives a fine education. A crystal is something this person would treasure in their late teens.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE Daily Crossword by Louis Santrey

ACROSS

- Rocky place
- City
- Grown-up
- Inner part
- Nerd
- Turn aside
- Temple
- Basin
- Ho's partner
- Things to memorize
- Related
- Materially
- Big success
- Occasion
- Chemical compound
- Actor Warren
- A Gershwin
- Use brooms
- Venture's land
- Oscar
- In the know
- Submarine
- locator
- Always to poets
- LA glider
- Singer
- Redding
- Oscar recipient
- Fruit drink
- Lodging place
- Seraglio
- Aquarium fish
- Small comb
- Ceremony
- Indian e.g.
- Tied
- Bridge strap
- Fr. river
- Take ten
- Kane's "Roadblock"

DOWN

- La --, Milan
- Baby problem
- Where the action is
- Move back
- Bustle
- Without a son
- Ms Verduge
- Soda sipper
- Stick
- Actress Ruby
- University of Logan
- Dolly's last name
- Waste
- allowance
- Logic
- Check
- Cut like the
- Valley
- Lug
- Fr. river
- Stravinsky
- Author Jaffe
- Pilot's
- Instrument
- WWII war
- none
- Full suits of armor
- Extinct bird
- "Mon Oncle" star
- TV's Spenser
- Gaseous
- Archangel
- Fit shoelaces
- Correct
- Speck
- Ten: prof.
- Speed
- Can. prov.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. ROCKY, 2. CITY, 3. GROWN-UP, 4. INNER, 5. NERD, 6. TURN, 7. TEMPLE, 8. BASIN, 9. HO'S, 10. THINGS, 11. RELATED, 12. MATERIAL, 13. BIG, 14. OCCASION, 15. CHEMICAL, 16. ACTOR, 17. GERSHWIN, 18. USE, 19. VENTURE, 20. OSCAR, 21. IN, 22. SUB, 23. LOCATOR, 24. ALWAYS, 25. LA, 26. SINGER, 27. REDDING, 28. OSCAR, 29. FRUIT, 30. LODGING, 31. SERAGLIO, 32. AQUARIUM, 33. SMALL, 34. CEREMONY, 35. INDIAN, 36. TIED, 37. BRIDGE, 38. FRI, 39. TAKE, 40. KANE, 41. ROADBLOCK.

DOWN: 1. LA, 2. BABY, 3. WHERE, 4. MOVE, 5. BUSTLE, 6. WITHOUT, 7. MS, 8. SODA, 9. STICK, 10. ACTRESS, 11. UNIVERSITY, 12. DOLLY, 13. WASTE, 14. ALLOWANCE, 15. LOGIC, 16. CHECK, 17. CUT, 18. VALLEY, 19. LUG, 20. FRI, 21. STRAVINSKY, 22. JAFFE, 23. PILOT, 24. INSTRUMENT, 25. WWII, 26. NONE, 27. SUITS, 28. BIRD, 29. MON, 30. SPENSER, 31. GASEOUS, 32. ARCHANGEL, 33. SHOELACES, 34. CORRECT, 35. SPECK, 36. TEN, 37. SPEED, 38. CAN.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND CMAR SHARIF
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LAY THE GROUNDWORK

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 8 3
♥ 9 8 4 3
♦ K 7 2
♣ A Q J

EAST

♠ 9 6 4
♥ Void
♦ Q 8 6 5 4
♣ 9 7 6 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A J 7 5
♥ A Q J 10 7 5 2
♦ A
♣ 4

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Study this hand. Can South guarantee his heart slam regardless of which defender holds the king of clubs, or how the trumps are divided?

More than 50 years ago Ely Culbertson introduced what he considered his greatest technical achievement, but which was a practical failure—asking bids. Using them, South would be able to find out whether North held the major-suit kings, missing ace and third-round spade control. Without the aid of such elaborate methods, South settled for what we consider to be the eminently practical bid of six hearts.

Declarer won the diamond opening lead, entered dummy with the king of spades and discarded a spade on the king of diamonds. After ruffing a diamond, he crossed to the ace of clubs and led a trump. When East showed out, declarer rose with the ace and exited with a heart to endplay West.

That worthy had a choice of losing options. A spade return would solve declarer's problem in that suit; a diamond would present South with a ruff-shuff and thereby eliminate the spade loser; and a club would give declarer a free finesse in that suit and set up one of dummy's clubs as a parking spot for a spade.

But what if East were to follow suit when declarer leads a trump from the table? There is an even prettier riddle available. Declarer must take the trump finesse, must take the trump finesse, must take the trump finesse. Should West have the king and win the trick, the same endplay operates. If East has the king, the finesse succeeds and declarer can try the spade finesse for an overtrick.

LOST

I, Sadi Unal Nakipler lost my Turkish passport No. TR-A-994736 issued at Turkish embassy/ Amman on 20 Sept. 87.

If found please contact the embassy Tel. 641251

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Estate Manager returning from England end November looking for an interesting position: Comprehensive experience estate/ household/ maintenance/ staff supervision etc.

Write with telephone number to P.O. Box 2793, Amman

AL-MAW'EL

The National Centre for Psychological and Educational Consultation is seeking specialists with graduate degrees in Clinical Psychology or Counselling.

Please contact 847067/8 for appointment between the hours of 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday Dec. 4. through Thursday Dec. 7.

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ANGLICAN CHURCH

This Sunday is Advent Sunday

Services in English:

8 a.m.: Holy Communion

6 p.m.: Advent Carols and Readings by candle-light

Tel: 628543

International Community School (The British Curriculum School in Amman)

We require for February/March a qualified Laboratory Technician. The applicant must be fluent in English.

Please send a copy of C.V. and letter of application to the Head Teacher's Secretary at the school as soon as possible.

International Community School P.O. Box 2002, Amman Tel. 641070

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The Australian Embassy on behalf of the University of Sydney is selling a duty free 1984 model Isuzu Trooper 4WD.

Offers should be submitted to the Australian Embassy in sealed envelopes before 1200 hours on Wednesday 6 December 1989.

Vehicle may be inspected at the Australian Embassy in Jabal Amman.

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation and The American Cultural Centre present

CHRISTOPHER LAUGHLIN in a Guitar Recital at the Royal Cultural Centre

Sunday, Dec. 3, 1989 at 8:00 p.m.

In the programme: Bach, Albeniz, Granados, Villa Lobos and others.

Tickets available at:

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The American Cultural Centre, Tel. 644371

Istiklal Library (Sweifiah), Tel. 821168

Milano (Shmeisani), Tel. 680970

Divan, Tel. 813061

The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620.

Ticket price JD 4

Computer Programmer Required

Local computer company, working on the development of major microcomputer systems, seeks a professional computer programmer. Expertise in Pascal, Assembly is required. Knowledge of operating systems design and C language is a plus.

Qualified candidates please send English C.V.'s to:

Personnel Department Zeta, P.O. Box 5296 Amman, Jordan. or phone: 689160/689162

RAINBOW

A FISH CALLED WANDA

3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420

OXFORD BLUES

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

A BOOK OF HEROES

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema NUOUM Tel: 675571

Nadia Al Jundi in TERRORISM (Arabic)

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 674111

BATMAN

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Opposition struggles to form government: Gandhi quits

NEW DELHI (R) — Rajiv Gandhi quit as Indian Prime Minister Wednesday, throwing the political ball to an opposition struggling to form a government after elections produced a hung parliament.

Gandhi met President Ramaswamy Venkataraman to offer his resignation, which was immediately accepted, and was asked to stay on as caretaker until a new government was formed. Senior officials of Gandhi's Congress Party, humiliated at the polls as it lost its huge parliamentary majority, said it decided to give the usually fragmented opposition first chance to form an administration. "Let the nation see what a mess they'll make of it," said one. It was clear the opposition was struggling after the resignation brought to an end another act in India's longest-running soap opera — the Nehru dynasty of which Gandhi is the heir. Leaders of the National Front alliance, needing the support of two parties at opposite ends of the political spectrum to form a minority government in the 545-member parliament, were locked

The front has a promise of support from leftist parties likely to win about 50 seats. But the front also had internal problems over the leadership issue. Its main leader, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has repeatedly said he doesn't want to be prime minister. Front sources said that was a gambit to ensure there was a sufficient clamour for him to become leader rather than at least two other men hungry for the job. A succession of front leaders, including Singh, went to see one of the contenders to persuade him that a contested leadership election would damage its fragile unity. The contender, Chandra Shekar, said that if the front was committed to democracy, there was no reason for him not to run. The only other time India's 810 million people have had a non-Congress government it fell apart amid mutual recriminations in 1979 after little more than two years. The haggling among the parties

puts Gandhi on the sidelines, and probably on the opposition benches, at least for the moment. But no one is yet ready to announce the final curtain has dropped on the Nehru dynasty, with Gandhi almost certain to be re-elected Congress president late Wednesday. Gandhi, his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru and his mother Indira Gandhi have run India for 37 of its 42 independent years. Asia's longest-running political ruling dynasty. "I believe Rajiv's time has passed," said his estranged sister-in-law Maneka Gandhi in an interview shortly after she was elected for the National Front. But, she added quickly, "in our family we keep bouncing back." "He deserved it because he let the family down," she said of the huge election losses that forced Rajiv Gandhi and his government to resign. Maneka, entering parliament as Janata's only woman member after winning her constituency by a 130,000-vote margin, speaks from experience.



A Salvadoran soldier runs for cover during an exchange of gunfire with the rebels for control of one of the neighbourhoods in San Salvador.

COLUMN

Foreigners get fare advice

NEW YORK (AP) — New York cabbies may find fewer easy marks — or francs, or pesetas — now that multilingual pamphlets advising foreign travellers the fares they should pay. The pamphlets with sample taxi ride prices are available at John F. Kennedy, Laguardia and Newark International Airports, said David Z. Plavin, the port authority director of aviation. The handouts will "serve to protect passengers from the few unscrupulous taxi drivers who might try to take advantage of passengers, particularly those unfamiliar with the New York taxi system," Plavin said Monday.

Poll: Women's movement yes, feminism no

NEW YORK (AP) — Most American women think the women's movement has made their lives better, yet only one in three consider themselves feminists, according to a poll. The poll of 1,000 American women, published in the Dec. 4 issue of Time magazine, found that 94 per cent believe the women's movement has helped them become more independent, 86 per cent credit it with giving them more control over their lives, and 82 per cent think it is still improving their lives. Yet 76 per cent said they pay "not very much" or "no" attention to the women's movement. Analysts attribute these contradictory attitudes to the very success of the women's movement, Time says. "Saying the women's movement is dead is like saying the cold war is dead," said Carol Gilligan, a Harvard professor. "No. No. It's over. It's won." The poll, conducted by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman, surveyed 1,000 women by phone on Oct. 22-25, and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points, Time said.

Book of Kells printed after 12 centuries

DUBLIN (R) — The Book of Kells, a medieval masterpiece which ranks as one of the world's most beautiful illuminated manuscripts, has been printed almost 12 centuries after it was created. The Book of Kells is a lavishly illustrated Latin text of the four gospels produced by Irish monks in 800 A.D. Swiss publisher Urs Duggelin, who developed a special mobile book holder with the first full colour facsimile edition of the fragile text to Irish President Patrick Hillery. Dublin's Trinity College, keeper of the Book of Kells, sanctioned the project by the Lucerne publisher who is selling a limited edition at \$14,800 a book.

Gere to portray couple of villains

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Richard Gere has been devoting a lot of time in recent years to his Buddhist beliefs. But that did not stop him from portraying a couple of old-fashioned villains in upcoming films. The 40-year-old actor, who has done little acting since his acclaimed performance in 1982's *An Officer and a Gentleman*, says in the current issue of *Fame* magazine that he has been supporting the cause of Tibetans, who have been under Chinese occupation since 1950. "They are a gentle, spiritual people who have been systematically murdered by the Chinese," said Gere, who, along with composer Philip Glass, founded the Tibet House for Himalayan exiles in New York two years ago.

Noiret wins film award

PARIS (AP) — Frenchman Philippe Noiret won the Best Actor prize at the 1989 European film awards, better known as the Felixes, for his roles in the French film *Life and Nothing Else* and the Franco-Italian *Paradise Cinema*. Britain's Ruth Sheen claimed the Best Actress award for *Mike Leigh's High Hopes*, a satirical look at England. The jury headed by Norwegian Actress Liv Ullmann chose *Landscape in the Mist*, a movie about two boys searching for their father, as Best Film. The director, Theo Angelopoulos of Greece, received the prize at a theatre on the Champs Elysees. The presentation was the highlight of the second annual awards competition among film makers from 27 countries. The film was chosen ahead of the Soviet Union's *Little Vera*, Hungary's *Eldorado*, Iceland's *Magnus*, Portugal's *Memories of the Yellow House*, and Britain's *High Hopes*.

Comaneci defects to Hungary

BUDAPEST (R) — Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, gold medal winner at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, has fled across the border to Hungary, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

Comaneci, 29, and six other Romanians crossed the border between Romania and Hungary near the south east Hungarian village of Mezogyasz Tuesday evening, spokesman Andras Kovari told Reuters. Hungarian radio said Comaneci was seeking political asylum in Hungary but the Interior Ministry was unable to confirm the report. She blasted into limelight at the 1975 European championships where she won gold medals in all gymnastic disciplines except floor exercises. She was the first gymnast to obtain a perfect 10 score and won the all-round gold medal at the Montreal games. Comaneci told Hungarian border guards their trip was planned in advance and they were guided through the border by a Romanian man, the radio said. Tens of thousands of Romanians unhappy with life under President Nicolae Ceausescu and



Violence erupts in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Eleven people were killed, three of them shot by police, in an upsurge of violence in the black townships of South Africa's Natal province. The 11 dead, listed in a brief daily police report, brought the toll to 31 in the past three days, rivaling the worst periods in a two-year-old conflict between the Zulu movement Inkatha and the United Democratic Front (UDF). The most serious incident was in the huge township of Mpmulanga, between the port city of Durban and Pietermaritzburg, the Natal provincial capital. Police said two people were killed in a clash between two groups. Police intervened, were shot at, and killed three others. Police said Wednesday they were sending reinforcements into Mpmulanga. Previously the army has been deployed in the most seriously affected townships, and while the violence has subsided, it has not been entirely eradicated. Authorities attribute the fighting to the feud, which has killed at least 2,000 people in the past two years, between Mangosuthu Buthe's politically moderate Inkatha and the UDF. Inkatha and the UDF are struggling for control of the townships, particularly those in a rolling valley stretching west from Pietermaritzburg.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Cape Town wants desegregation

CAPE TOWN (R) — Cape Town's white managers want to declare the city an apartheid-free zone and are willing to go to court to do so, a spokesman said Wednesday. City spokesman Ted Doman said the 34-member city council voted Tuesday to reject President F.W. De Klerk's plan to open a small section of the inner city to residents of all races. He said the council voted instead to ask the government to exempt Cape Town from apartheid regulations and to seek legal advice on ways to force Pretoria's hand. De Klerk announced last week that District Six, a former coloured (mixed race) residential area that was bulldozed 20 years ago to make way for white housing, would be among four suburbs chosen for an experiment in desegregation. District Six has remained undeveloped since its 60,000 residents were forcibly removed to new coloured townships up to 30 kilometres outside the city.

Ireland seeks for greener Europe

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland will press for a greener Europe and seek to boost economic cooperation with Northern Ireland when it takes over the European Community presidency in January. Prime Minister Charles Haughey spelt out his ambitions for Ireland's six-month tenure before flying off Wednesday for talks in Brussels with EC Commission President Jacques Delors. Haughey told reporters that one of Ireland's priorities during its presidency would be protecting the environment. The Irish government has offered a prime Dublin dockside venue as the site for a new European environmental protection agency. But competition is said to be fierce as there are 27 other applicants, Berlin among the favourites. With Europe heading for a single, barrier-free market by the end of 1992, Haughey has also seized on Ireland's presidency as a possible way of breaking the political deadlock in Northern Ireland. He has invited Northern Ireland's three members of the European Parliament for talks on a shared approach to EC structural funds that could finance cross-border projects.

Gadget to trap ozone-depleting CFCs

TORONTO (R) — Scientists are developing a portable device to trap chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which are eroding the ozone layer and creating a global warming known as the "greenhouse" effect. Union Carbide Canada Ltd. said Tuesday the device will capture CFCs used in household refrigerators and air conditioners. CFCs, the main cause of damage to the Earth's protective ozone layer, usually escape through system leakage or when certain appliances are repaired or thrown away. "The technology is designed to remove, clean and recycle CFCs used in both small — and large-scale residential and industrial applications such as repairing home refrigerators and air conditioners," said Neil Weaver, vice president and general manager of Union Carbide's Linde Division. A small blue bottle containing a crystalline molecular sieve would be attached to the appliances before they were repaired or thrown away.

Crane collapse kills 5 in U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The arm of a construction crane operating 16 stories above the city's financial district toppled to the street during the morning rush hour Tuesday, killing five people. The crane's huge arm, along with the cabin containing the operator, fell with such force that one section plunged through the street and into an underground garage. "We heard this rumbling and shaking, and we went to the windows. We saw the crane coming over the side of the building and pieces of steel were being bent like pretzels," said Susan Barry, who was on the sixth floor of a neighbouring building.

Mercenaries in control of Comoros

DZAOUZI, Mayotte (R) — The mercenary-led Presidential Guard has taken control of the Comoros Islands since the assassination of President Ahmad Abdallah and has disbanded the army, a French journalist expelled from the island said Wednesday. Joseph Edern, a journalist of the French-based Agence Internationale d'Images de Television, said on arrival in the French-ruled island of Mayotte that a European Mercenary officer of the Presidential Guard told him the regular army had been disbanded and might be dissolved. The Presidential Guard is headed by Boh Denard, a French mercenary who helped bring Abdallah to power in 1978. "The only armed force (in the Comoros) is the Presidential Guard, which is managed by Bob Denard," Edern told reporters at Mayotte airport. President Abdallah, who was assassinated on Sunday night, was buried on his home island of Anjouan Tuesday, sources in the Indian Ocean archipelago said. The sources, contacted by telephone from Mayotte, said the situation in the capital Moroni was calm and that all government offices there had been closed for three days as a sign of mourning. But the real situation which followed the assassination remained difficult to gauge. The sources, aware that all phone calls were probably being monitored by the security services, said only that the president of the supreme court, Said Djohar, had taken over as interim president. Abdallah had ruled the Comoros, a chain of volcanic islands northwest of Madagascar, since 1978. He was placed in power by a group of 50 European mercenaries who invaded the island and went on to form the officer corps of his feared 500-strong Presidential Guard.

Initial reports said Abdallah and one of his bodyguards had been shot dead by Major Ahmad Mohammad, the chief of staff of the Comoros' small army, which is separate from the better armed Presidential Guard. "The killing, torture and 'disappearance' of hundreds of children and young people has been one cost of a strategy of 'terror to fight terror' adopted by the armed forces in Peru," it said. The organisation said it was

Armenians angry after loss of Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament has restored most of Azerbaijan's powers over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, angering Armenians who wanted more regional unrest. Parliament said it was seeking to stabilise the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians although it is part of Azerbaijan. More than 120 people have died in clashes in the past two years over the area. Deputies voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to dissolve a special Kremlin Commission that had administered Nagorno-Karabakh since January, enabling its Armenian majority to ignore the Azerbaijani government in Baku. Now Nagorno-Karabakh's former government and Communist Party organisations, dormant since January, are to be restored, along with all their links to Azerbaijan.

Amnesty: Peru fighting terror with terror

LONDON (AP) — Government forces in Peru are using "terror to fight terror" and have killed 3,000 people in seven years of brutality that targets children and matches the leftist rebels, Amnesty International said Wednesday. "Torture, mutilation, 'disappearance', murder and rape have become a hallmark of the armed forces' campaign against terrorism," the international human rights organisation said in a report on Peru. It said the armed forces have singled out children and young people as suspected supporters of the Maoist Shining Path Movement, and hundreds have been murdered, tortured or simply have disappeared. "The killing, torture and 'disappearance' of hundreds of children and young people has been one cost of a strategy of 'terror to fight terror' adopted by the armed forces in Peru," it said. The organisation said it was

launching a campaign against human rights violations by Peru's armed forces, and it called on the government to investigate all alleged abuses and bring those responsible to justice. In a 17-page report titled "caught between two fires," Amnesty claimed extensive and continuing massacres, mutilations and torture by opposition forces such as the Shining Path, or Sendero Luminoso. As a result, it said, peasants in areas where the government has declared a state of emergency have been "caught between two fires," victims of massive abuse by both government forces and armed rebels. It said security force abuses are growing. "A climate of terror... is spreading across much of the country," Amnesty International said. "Many people have relatives who have been killed in cold blood by both anti-government

guerrillas and government forces. More than 3,000 detainees have 'disappeared' in the past seven years and at least 3,000 more are estimated to have been killed by security forces, individually or in mass executions, the report said. It said targets for human rights abuses by government forces are drawn from increasingly broad sectors of society. Local government officers, community leaders, trade union members, journalists, lawyers, academics and people considered critics or opponents of the government have been threatened, killed or had their homes and offices bombed, the report said. Many killings are carried out after victims have been detained and tortured, it said. The report focuses on violations in emergency zones, where more than half Peru's 21 million people live under political-milit-

ary command. In these zones, many killings appear to have been carried out to punish communities for rebel activities in their areas, it said. Amnesty International said few males aged between 14 and 40 remain in these zones and women looking after communities have been subjected to increasing abuse by government forces. Rape by troops, which the report calls a form of torture, is widespread, and women of all ages are at risk, it said. The report said it is common for women to be raped after soldiers have entered villages and tortured and taken the men away. Other women have been raped while in detention, it said. It cited the case of Maria Guinart Pisco Pisango, 26, a farmer from San Martin de Alsio in Lamas Province, who was raped, tortured and shot dead by soldiers after she reported her husband's disappearance.

Armenia Tuesday, said Yuri Balayan, an Armenian deputy. In August the front, a new mass movement fired by nationalist emotions over Nagorno-Karabakh, stopped trains rolling into Armenia for more than a month. It also held huge rallies demanding that Armenians drop claims to the region. Meanwhile a foreign policy adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev indicated Tuesday that Moscow would not allow a spillover into outlying Soviet republics of the changes under way in Eastern Europe. Speaking to reporters in Rome, where Gorbachev arrives Wednesday, Vadim Zagladin rejected any comparison between once-independent Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and Moscow's Warsaw Pact allies such as Czechoslovakia.

The special Kremlin Commission will be replaced with another commission appointed by the parliament in Moscow, but it will have less power — mainly overseeing the deployment of some 5,000 troops sent to the area last year to keep order. Armenians said the decision had put Nagorno-Karabakh right back in the position of two years ago when the Armenian majority demanded unification with neighbouring Armenia, sparking ethnic clashes. "I think there will be more problems in Nagorno-Karabakh. We don't have the text of the decision yet but we don't like what we have heard about it," said a journalist at Armenpress news agency in Yerevan, the Armenian capital. An adviser at the Armenian mission in Moscow said most of